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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Japanese lawmakers' plan to relocate U.S. troops from Futenma, Japan to the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Debt Dilemma

It's bad enough that Greece's debt problems have rattled global financial markets. In the world's largest economic and military power, there's a far more serious debt dilemma.

Business...Page 14

Base Debate

A member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee said Monday he's open to hearing options on how to resolve a dispute over the relocation of a contentious U.S. Marine base on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

Asia...Page 16

'Valentine's Day'

The star-studded romance "Valentine's Day" wooed audiences with a $52.4 million opening weekend, easily grabbing the No. 1 spot over the holiday that shares its name, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Life & Style

Guam-CNMI reunification in Camacho's last State of the Island Address

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho brought up anew the idea of a Guam-CNMI reunification in his last State of the Island Address yesterday.

But Camacho's address, which is 11 pages long, talked heavily about the massive military buildup in Guam.

He reiterated his request to the U.S. Department of Defense to delay the buildup until after 2014, and asked the military to commit to fund the buildup needs of the government of Guam.

"Over the last seven years, our ties to our brothers and sisters in the neighboring islands

Camacho

of the CNMI have become closer than ever. As we recognize the combined strength of the Mariana Islands on matters of mutual interest and benefit, Guam and the CNMI should once again seek reunification," Camacho said in his speech.

Camacho, who was on Saipan on Tuesday last week for the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on the recruitment of CNMI residents for the Guam National Guard, has been consistently pushing for a Marianas reunification.

"As one Marianas, with greater representation and inclusion as American citizens, we will only strengthen our people

See REUNIFICATION on Page 4

WITHOUT AUSTERITY FRIDAYS, UNPAID HOLIDAYS

'Payless paydays loom'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chairman Rep. Ramon S. Basa (Cov-Saipan) has warned of payless paydays and worsening budget deficit if the Legislature does not pass his bill implementing a shutdown of government offices every other Friday and unpaid legal holidays for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010.

See PAYLESS on Page 4

Rep. Ramon S. Basa (Cov-Saipan) gestures as he talks to members of his Committee on Ways and Means on Capital Hill on Friday afternoon.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

NEW SEAWALL

Alexander Ayeras, an employee of GPPC Inc., walks past the new 840-ft. stainless railing that is part of the soon-to-be-completed $4.8 million seawall replacement project at the Smiling Cove Marina yesterday morning. The project involves not only the construction of a stable seawall and railing which provides a beautiful Managaha Island and American Memorial Park beach lookout, but also a concrete walkway, parking spaces, improved road, and a landscaped area.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CPA: High turnover rate of financial people a concern

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Finance committee chairman Barrie Toves wants the Commonwealth Ports Authority to take immediate action on the "high turnover rate" of its financial people, citing the negative impact it brings to the overall perfor-

See TURNOVER on Page 4

CRM, local agencies approve Tinian landfill permit. PAGE 3

Kilili: Feds rewrite online catalog to help CNMI in finding grants. **PAGE 4**

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Local

Lawyer Joseph Arriola set to appear today in federal court

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Joseph Aldan Arriola, a Saipan lawyer who is being charged with wire fraud and money laundering, is expected to appear in federal court today, Tuesday.

The court ordered Arriola to appear at 8:30am for a waiver of speedy trial hearing.

During a waiver of speedy trial hearing, a defendant and his counsel are expected to request the court to give them more time either to prepare for the trial or negotiate for plea bargain.

Attorney Steven Pixley is counsel for Arriola.

Arriola has been in detention since the Philippine government deported him to Saipan on Nov. 25, 2009.

Last Dec. 23, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson denied Arriola's request for his temporary release to a third-party custodian.

Munson agreed with the U.S. government's position that Arriola is a flight risk.

Court-appointed counsel Pixley earlier asserted that the defendant should be released to a third party custodian as the conditions will assure his court appearance and that he poses no danger to the community.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler argued that Arriola fled the jurisdiction to escape responsibility for his actions once before.

Schuler said a third party custodian, or other conditions, cannot reasonably assure that the defendant will appear as required or will not try to escape again.

Munson set the jury trial for March 1, 2010 at 9am.

Philippine authorities arrested Arriola for being a fugitive in the U.S. on June 16, 2009 in the Philippines where he was then detained for five months.

The U.S. government charged Arriola and former Rita Kaipat estate administrator Luis Pelisamen with wire fraud and money laundering for stealing over $600,000 from the estate's account.

Arriola was the then counsel of Pelisamen. Arriola fled to the Philippines, while Pelisamen was arrested and subsequently found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of $625,775 to the Rita Kaipat estate.

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Tourism Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
What have you enjoyed most about the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival?
There are a lot of people and vendors selling local food and hot peppers!
Corina aldan
The donni! And everyone's gathered just to celebrate Tinian.
Hilbert San Nicholas
It brings some money for Tinian. I think everybody feels the same; it's good that visitors come and spend money. Plus, it keeps people from boredom!
Gabriel Dela Cruz Santos
HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

CRM, local agencies approve Tinian landfill permit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Coastal Resources Management and local agencies unanimously approved the permit for the Tinian sanitary landfill.

CRM director John Joyner disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the decision was adopted during last week's meeting of the local agencies that also included the Department of Public Works, Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Historical Preservation Office.

The approval was based on the compliance of the permittee to the conditions and requirements set by the local agencies.

Joyner identified the DPW as the permittee for the long-delayed landfill project which is to be relocated at the Atgidon area.

The CRM director said that the government's solicitation for architectural and engineering design for the sanitary landfill project is also ongoing.

Tinian has an existing open dump located at southwest of Tinian airport, which is the subject of health and environmental concerns raised by local and federal agencies.

The long-awaited Tinian landfill has some $5.4 million in available funding of which $4 million is sourced from 702 monies. Total funds would cover the planning and actual construction of the landfill and the transfer station.

In 2006, about $800,000 was already spent by the Tinian Legislative Delegation in completing the project's research study.

Joyner disclosed that there are about six requirements that were all completed by the DPW for the said project.

After full assessment of the application, local agencies concurred that DPW adhere to all the requirements set by the law.

CRM held a public hearing on the Tinian landfill project in December which yielded positive feedback from community members.

Joyner earlier said that, although the identified site is within the area being leased by the U.S. military area, the application doesn't require approval from the military. The only condition set for using a portion of the site for the landfill is to close the area during extensive military exercises to protect villagers. Thus, a transfer station is needed to be built.

About 8,000 Marines are scheduled to be transferred from Okinawa, Japan to Guam as part of the military buildup. This plan is seen to economically benefit the CNMI—particularly Tinian—as two-thirds of the island is leased by the U.S. military and may be used for military training and other exercises.

CHAMBER TETE-A-TETE HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Julia Claire Martin, legislative assistant in the office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) in Washington, D.C., met with members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last week at Hard Rock Café in Garapan for an informal chat on issues related to the CNMI's transition to a federal immigration system. Local business leaders continue to be frustrated over federal agencies' slow action on concerns related to federalization and continued access to foreign workers.

Rota street naming commission meeting pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) has introduced a local resolution asking Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola to convene the Rota Street Directory Commission, and to name streets after the island's honorable men and women who significantly contributed to the community.

Rota Local Law 7-1 or the Rota Street Directory Act of 1990 established the Rota Street Directory Commission to create an orderly system of naming public streets, buildings and properties on Rota.

But two decades since the commission's creation, Rota still has no street names.

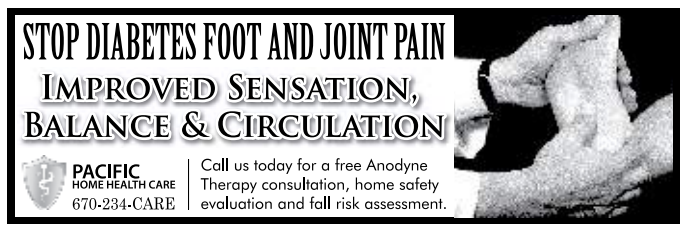
Under the local law, the commission consists of the Rota mayor, and the resident directors of the Departments of Public Works and Public Safety or their designees.

Santos said the previous commission did not complete the overall plan naming public streets, buildings and properties on Rota.

She said the commission shall give preference to names which reflect the local culture and heritage, and name public buildings and streets only after those individuals no longer living and who made significant contributions to their communities.

"The intent of the Rota Street Directory Act of 1990 must be realized and the master street map or overall plan for naming public streets, buildings and properties must be finalized and implemented to enhance the Rota communities," said Santos in her Rota Local Resolution 17-2.

Santos earlier introduced two House resolutions honoring the late Albert S. Toves Jr., known as the sand sculptor, and the late Fidel A. Mendiola for their contributions not only to Rota but to the CNMI.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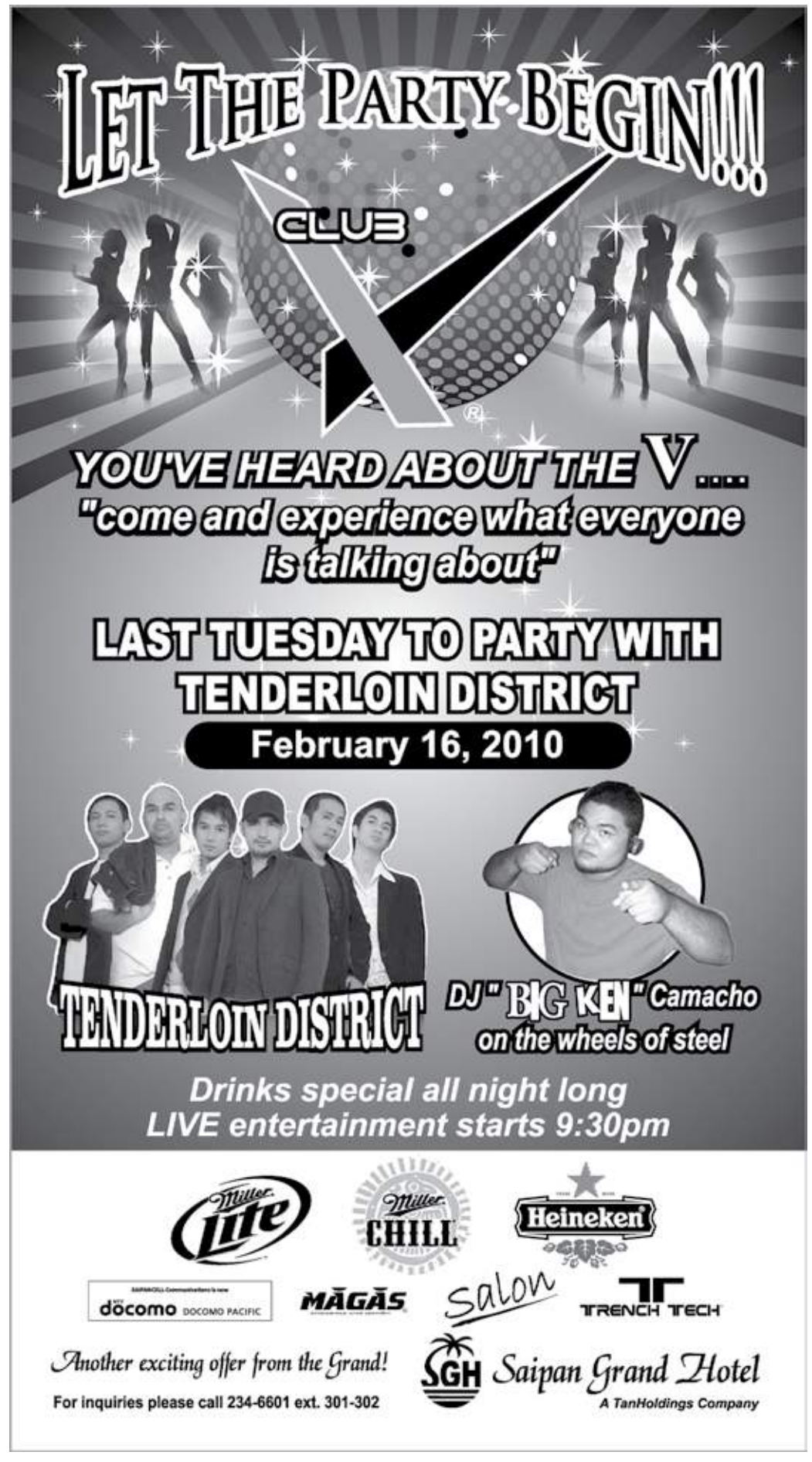

Kilili: Feds rewrite online catalog to help CNMI in finding grants

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has informed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial that the General Services Administration is rewriting its online catalog to help make it easier to identify federal grants opportunities for the CNMI.

Sablan said the newly created Office of Grants Management under the Office of the Governor may discover similar problem with GSA's Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance that obscured grant opportunities for the islands.

"I want you to know that federal agencies can be very responsive to congressional offices and that your new office should not hesitate to enlist my help to get such problems fixed," Sablan said in a Feb. 12 letter to Fitial.

Fitial signed into law on Dec. 14 a bill creating a new Office of Grants Management under the Office of the Governor to be able to better manage the millions of dollars in federal grant funding that the CNMI is eligible to receive every year. The bill is now Public Law 16-48.

Sablan

The delegate said the creation of the new office is an "opportunity for partnership."

"Many of the duties of the new office are either the same as work regularly done by the Congressional office or work that could be supported by my office. So it is my hope that your Grants Management Office will not hesitate to provide its recommendations to me or to ask for my assistance whenever needed," said Sablan, the CNMI's first nonvoting delegate to the U.S. Congress.

In his two-page letter, Sablan said his office is already engaged in reviewing federal grant formulae at the time of the reauthorization or creation of federal programs to ensure that the Commonwealth receives the maximum amount possible, as Public Law 16-48 directs the Office of Grants Management to do.

"In addition, my office reviews pending legislation to ensure that the Commonwealth is not excluded outright from such programs. This is sometimes the case because the Northern Mariana Islands was never before represented in Congress or sometimes because of simple oversight," Sablan told the governor.

To address the latter problem, Kilili said he recently asked the Office of Legislative Counsel to initiate a policy of automatically including the CNMI and all other U.S. states and territories in the scope of coverage for new bills, unless the author of a bill specifically asks for limits to coverage.

The Office of Legislative Counsel is responsible for drafting all legislation that comes before the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Even if the Legislative Counsel adopts this as a general policy, however, discrepancies may still arise. Having your Office of Grants Management also on the alert for problems of coverage can only increase our effectiveness and I welcome the partnership," Sablan told Fitial.

DFS DONATION

The DFS Christmas Committee recently made a $3,000 donation to the CHC Volunteers Association. The CUC Volunteers Association is raising funds for a new hyperbaric chamber, which will assist patients with diabetes problems. The CUC Volunteers Association does great work in the local community and the DFS Christmas Committee, chaired by Jeff Taylor, would like to help the group in reaching out to those in need on Saipan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REUNIFICATION

From Page 1

and communities," the Guam governor said in his address.

CNMI Press Secretary Angel A. Demapan, when asked for comment yesterday, said "any attempt to explore and achieve reunification of Guam and the CNMI would have to be a decision that is made by the people."

The people of Guam voted against reintegration with the CNMI on Nov. 4, 1969.

At that time, the people of the CNMI overwhelmingly voted in favor of such unification.

Demapan said "Fitial believes that if reunification is to be pursued again, it should be done only at the will of the people of the Commonwealth by way of another plebiscite."

"As governor of the CNMI, he respects the will of the people as the ultimate decision," Demapan added.

One theory behind Guam people's 1969 rejection of reunification is that it came as a payback to the Northern Marianas Chamorros for their assistance to Japanese forces during the occupation of Guam.

Another theory is that the reunification issue "simply lost its significance when compared to the pending election of the first governor of Guam, which was scheduled to take place the following year."

In 1970, the late Carlos Garcia Camacho, who is Camacho's father, became the first governor of Guam to be elected by its people. Before that, he was an incumbent governor appointed by then U.S. President Richard Nixon.

PAYLESS

From Page 1

In the first quarter of FY 2010, the government has already reported a preliminary deficit figure of close to $12 million.

Basa said the longer the delay in acting on his House Bill 17-22, the lesser it becomes effective in preventing further deficit and payless paydays.

The President's Day holiday yesterday, for example, would have been an unpaid legal holiday and would have helped reduce government deficit but the committee has yet to formally recommend passage of the bill.

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee, during a meeting on Friday afternoon, agreed to remove the President's Day holiday from H.B. 17-22's six proposed unpaid holidays before Sept. 30, 2010.

The second proposed unpaid holiday on the bill is Good Friday which falls on April 2.

"We wish for their (public) patience and understanding and we hope this is only temporary. The Legislature is working hard to identify or generate revenue at the same time we're pushing for capital improvement projects. We've been calling officials to give us status report (of CIPs)…We need fresh money to be injected into the Commonwealth," Basa told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview right after meeting with his committee's members.

$6 million savings

Basa said the committee is polishing the bill before it formally recommends its passage.

Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the bill could save or reduce government shortfall by some $6 million.

"We have to tighten our belt," he said after the committee meeting.

He also hopes that lawmakers will "look into the reality of the numbers."

"If they have questions about the revenue collected, they have the liberty of calling the acting secretary of Finance," he added.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the more than $16.86 million in deficit in FY 2009 would have been prevented had the 16th Legislature acted on his proposed "austerity Fridays" implemented during the 15th Legislature.

Fitial is expected to sign Basa's austerity measures bill if and when it passes the House and Senate.

Strict on exemptions

But during the committee meeting, Cabrera said "exemptions after exemptions" from the "austerity Fridays" law when it was previously implemented reduced the intended savings of $15 million to only $2 million.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said if and when Basa's bill is passed, exemptions should be strictly enforced.

"We have to be firm," she said.

Besides Basa, Cabrera, and Ogumoro, the other House Ways and Means Committee members who attended the meeting included Reps. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan), George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), along with House counsel Matt Meyer and Civil Service Commission counsel John McCool.

Under Basa's HB 17-22, government work hours will be reduced by eight hours or from 80 to 72 per pay period, and implement unpaid legal holidays for the remainder of FY 2010 or until Sept. 30, 2010. The eight hours represent "every other Friday," thus the term "austerity Fridays."

If a legal holiday is within the same pay period, it will be reduced to 64 hours for that particular period.

Basa and Cabrera reiterated that the bill is aimed at immediately addressing the government's current financial crisis.

Besides the "austerity Fridays" declared as government austerity holidays, Basa's bill also declared as "unpaid legal holidays" the following: Good Friday (April 2), Commonwealth Covenant Day (March 24), Memorial Day (May 31), Independence/Liberation Day (July 4), and Labor Day (Sept. 6).

Exempted from the austerity measures are agencies providing 24-hour service including the Commonwealth Health Center.

Basa said they are waiting for the Public School System's report on Feb. 22 on how it would be able to pitch in and help the government reduce the deficit or save money.

The CNMI is operating under continuing budget resolution because of the failure to pass a timely budget before the start of FY 2010. The administration is also now working on the FY 2011 budget measure of $150 million again.

The Executive Branch has until April 1 to submit a budget proposal to the Legislature for FY 2011, which runs from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 31, 2011.

TURNOVER

From Page 1

mance of the agency.

Toves, during Friday's special board meeting, disclosed that the high turnover rate in the agency's accounting department is what creates the big gap between the board and management trying to focus on monitoring the financial state of the agency.

Since the resignation of former comptroller George Palican in 2007, CPA has had difficulty in getting a permanent replacement which is now again vacant due to the retirement of Frances Mafnas.

It was in early 2009 when David Blake was hired for the position, but only after a few months he tendered his resignation. Mafnas served in an acting capacity until she was named comptroller late last year. Mafnas retired after serving the ports authority for 18 years. She was honored last Friday.

Saipan Tribune learned that aside from the lack of comptroller, CPA also operated without a deputy comptroller as well as an accounting manager.

"Because of this high turnover rate [in the accounting department] it created a big gap between us trying to focus on monitoring the finances of CPA. So if we keep on replacing people, we need to allot more time for their training and transition…and because of this, we're losing track of our monitoring," he said, describing the issue as "very critical" to CPA.

In the accounting department, personnel deal with the payroll, capital improvement projects, account payables, account receivables, and general ledger.

There were instances in the past that the top three key positions in the accounting department—comptroller, deputy comptroller, and accounting manager—were vacant.

Currently, the ports authority has a total of nine employees at the accounting department, including deputy comptroller Derek Sasamoto and newly hired accounting manager Ida DeBrum.

30-day contract approved

Although Sasamoto was named acting comptroller, the board authorized executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero to enter into a contractual agreement with former comptroller Frances Mafnas to assist in the transition period.

A 30-day contract was adopted by the board subject to evaluation of the executive director.

"I want to request a 60-day contractual employment for Mrs. Mafnas to ensure the smooth transition. But the board decided to give 30-day of which extension will be based on evaluation," Deleon Guerrero said.

Deleon Guerrero refused to disclose the contract amount for Mafnas, saying that both parties will still negotiate.

During Friday's special meeting, Mafnas expressed willingness to take the contract but admitted that the 30 days is not enough to cover all the transition and turnover. She specifically cited the works to be done for the airport and seaport bonds.

According to board acting chairman Thomas "Kiyu" Villagomez, both personnel and finance committees will work with the management on the immediate hiring of comptroller. The job announcement has been issued out and so far three have applied to the position including the deputy comptroller, Derek Sasamoto.

Villagomez pointed out that Mafnas' assistance is important to whoever will assume the works for federal grants and bond issues.

The acting chairman assured that all applicants in the positions announced vacant by the agency will go through a fair process of selection from the committee who will recommend it to the board for action.

FOR CHOKING DAUGHTER

Woman ordered to undergo parenting, anger-management classes

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has ordered a woman to undergo parenting and anger-management classes for choking and hitting her then 11-year-old daughter with a belt last year.

Govendo also directed the Division of Youth Services to conduct appropriate monitoring to ensure the continued safety of defendant Terry Ann M. Pangelinan's children.

Govendo sentenced Pangelinan to 12 months in prison, all suspended, for assault and battery.

The judge placed the 32-year-old Pangelinan on probation for one year and required her to pay a $25 court assessment fee plus a probation service fee.

The CNMI government charged the defendant with child abuse and assault and battery.

The defendant and counsel G. Anthony Long signed a plea agreement with the government represented by assistant attorney general George Hasselback.

For entering a guilty plea to assault and battery, the government dismissed the remaining charge.

The agreement stated that on March 7, 2009, the defendant assaulted her daughter.

According to a police's report, the child sustained bruises in the arms, legs, ears, and neck.

The girl told police that her mother beat her up when she talked to her father on the phone. She allegedly spanked her with a belt, pulled her by the hair, slammed her on the bed, then choked and punched her.

Pangelinan grabbed the phone from the girl and told her former common-law husband that she was choking their daughter.

It was the former common-law husband who immediately called the police. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Risk management conference for Pacific airport stakeholders set

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Officials and representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration will be on island next month for a five-day risk management conference aimed at securing aviation safety in the Pacific region.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero confirmed to *Saipan Tribune* that a visiting FAA team from Seattle and Hawaii will facilitate the conference slated from March 1 to 5, which venue has yet to be decided.

The risk management conference is expected to address the hazards arising from an airport runway and its associated operations.

CPA officials disclosed that also expected to be tackled are approaches to risk management, tools that may be applied, and mitigations, which are both established and innovative.

Deleon Guerrero described the upcoming event as "very important" in ensuring the safety operation of the aviation industry.

Airport stakeholders that include airline representatives are among the event's participants.

CPA has two pending major undertakings funded by the FAA's airport improvement project fund which will require the certification from the FAA: the alternate runway and the rehabilitation of the main runway of the Francisco Ada International Airport.

Saipan Tribune learned that although construction of the temporary runway has been completed, a certification from the FAA is required to make it fully operational.

To make it happen, a flight procedural agreement must be signed between CPA, FAA, and stakeholders to make sure that everybody concurred with the rules and procedures for the safety use of the alternate runway.

Signing of the agreement is expected to take place within the conference schedule, according to the executive director.

"The flight procedural agreement is necessary in securing certification [for the alternate runway] from FAA. We're hoping to get it as soon as possible so we can start the main runway rehabilitation," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero earlier admitted to the board that the federal agency may recall the funding allocation for projects that are not moving forward—or have been delayed for a long period of time.

Saipan Tribune learned that FAA has provided $4 million funding for the rehabilitation of the temporary airport runway. The creation of the temporary runway is to give way to the major repair and rehabilitation of the main runway. Bid for the project cost is over $13 million and the notice to proceed was issued in September 2009. Until the temporary runway is certified, work will not commence on the main project.

Project's construction is targeted to commence in April. During the rehabilitation of the main airport runway, the temporary runway will be used for majority of aircraft traffic. No flights are expected to be cancelled as the temporary runway will be available for aircrafts needing a longer runway.

"Since these two events [risk management conference and flights procedural agreement] are correlated so much, we decided to do these both at the same time," the CPA executive director said.

CPA received a total of $104.3 million in airport improvement projects funds from the FAA in the last eight fiscal years.

From 1999 to 2007, 49 projects were approved, majority of which were for the Saipan International Airport. The Saipan airport benefited from 26 projects amounting to $59.7 million, 14 for Tinian, and nine projects for the Rota airport.

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy 23rd birthday to Krystally Jean Eusebio-Arceo. Wishing you good health, lots of happiness, a day of relaxation, and many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greeting from all your family and friends

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Belated happy 8th birthday to Karl Codog. She celebrated her birthday last Feb. 9. Greetings from your JHEMS Restaurant family.

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CPA cancels Tinian harbor fender project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority rescinded its decision approving the placing of fenders on Tinian harbor and formally cancelled the request for proposal issued for the project during its meeting last Friday.

The decision was taken after executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero made his recommendation on its cancellation, citing a more pressing need at the Tinian harbor.

Deleon Guerrero said the project cancellation was a result of the study conducted by Mobil Oil and which was assessed by the ports authority.

Assessment of both parties indicated that the project was unnecessary at this time when the main port harbor on island is in severe condition.

A fender is a bumper used to keep boats from banging into docks or each other.

Once built, Mobil Oil will benefit from the project because of the oil tankers that deliver the products to the port.

The board last year agreed to offset the cost of the project to the amount paid by the company to the port.

"The dock is in really bad shape…and it becomes a matter of priority. Based on the study conducted by Mobil, the company feels now that the fender is just a secondary [priority]," Deleon Guerrero reported to the board last Friday.

He described the project amount involved as "not too cheap" which CPA may use in other pressing needs such as repair and rehabilitation of the port's dock.

CPA board members, however, pointed out that the fender project is a separate project from the Tinian harbor repairs being pushed by the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

Tinian board member Manny Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* that this specific delegation and municipality project is ongoing.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial proclaimed a state of disaster for Tinian last October after determining that the island's deteriorating outer breakwater walls and piers pose a public danger. The declaration allowed him to reprogram funds for the repair and rehabilitation of the outer walls and piers, costing $2 to $3 million.

Tinian lawmakers earlier disclosed that the island needed $45 million to be able to repair and rebuild the island's breakwater, which was built soon after World War II. However, the priority is its outer wall and piers. There was $15 million CIP money that was being eyed for the project.

Officials said typhoons severely deteriorated the outer wall and piers, leaving the inner dock of Tinian harbor vulnerable.

Sabino receives award from workers group

The Pilipino Contract Workers Association awarded a former hotel employee who played hero when he revived an unconscious student by applying his knowledge on basic first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

PILCOWA officials handed a certificate of appreciation and a $50 check to Fyke Sabino as their first recipient of "Bayani" (hero) award during the organization's appreciation night and Valentine's party at Kilili Beach Saturday night.

PILCOWA president Melquiadez Concillado announced the launching of their "Bayani" award and explained why they chose Sabino as the awardee.

Among those present during the awarding of Sabino were PILCOWA chairman Ronnie Doca, secretary Jennifer Santiago, United Workers Movement president Rabby Syed, and Philippine Consulate officials.

Sabino, a former bar supervisor at Century Hotel, was able to revive the 18-year-old male student shortly before an ambulance came.

The incident happened in the evening of Jan. 30 in one of the apartment rooms at Finasisu Terrace when the student suffered severe asthma allergy.

The student's girlfriend asked some friends for help. One neighbor saw Sabino, who had just got out from his car on his way home after refereeing in a basketball league.

When Sabino came to the room he saw the student's tongue had retracted and his eyes were all white. The student then later lost consciousness.

Sabino applied his knowledge of first aid and CPR by clearing the victim's airway on the throat then pumping his chest several times until he regained consciousness.

Medics on board the ambulance transported the already conscious student to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was released after several hours.

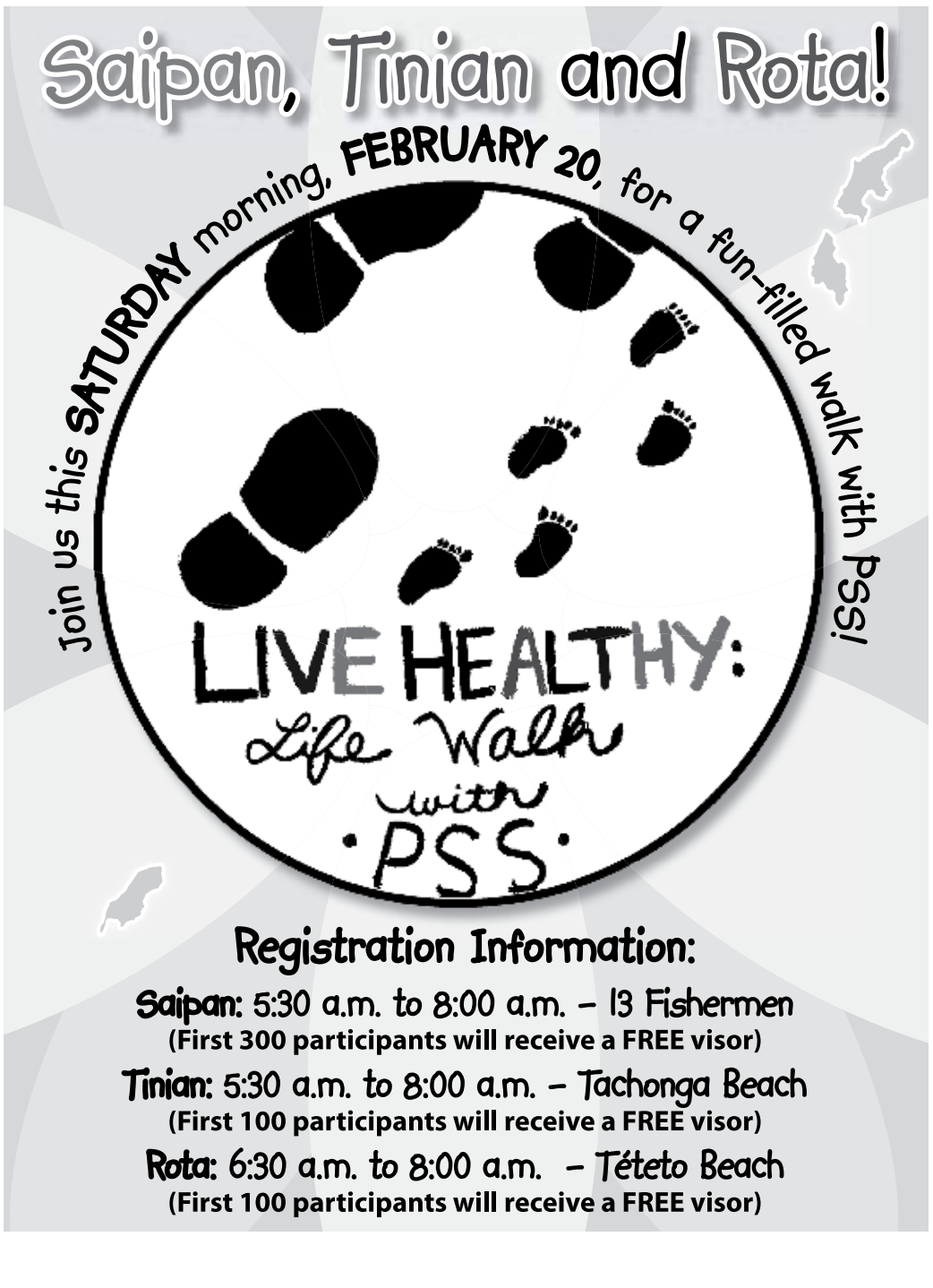
Sabino said he is happy he was able to help in reviving the teenager and that he did not expect receiving such award from PILCOWA.

He underscored the importance of learning the basic first aid and CPR in such a small community like Saipan.

Meanwhile, PILCOWA also handed certificates of appreciation to supporters, team participants, referees, committees, and media members for their contribution to their recent basketball league at the JP Center basketball court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fyke Sabino, second from left, receives a certificate of appreciation and a $50 check as recipient of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association's first "Bayani" (hero) award during PILCOWA's appreciation night and Valentine's Party at Kilili Beach on Saturday night.


Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
Join us this SATURDAY morning, FEBRUARY 20, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – I3 Fishermen
(First 300 participants will receive a FREE visor)
Tinian: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachonga Beach
(First 100 participants will receive a FREE visor)
Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach
(First 100 participants will receive a FREE visor)

★★★ATTENTION★★★

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

As of January 1, 2010, your Group Life Insurance Benefit offered through the CNMI Government is provided by Individual Assurance Company.

All eligible CNMI Government employees and retirees must re-enroll by February 26, 2010.

You may re-enroll through your Human Resources office. IAC will also be facilitating re-enrollment meetings at the office of Don Barcinas beginning **Tuesday, February 16, 2010.**

Donald C. and Tina O. Barcinas
General Agents, Individual Assurance Company
Cabrera Center, First Floor, Suite 106
Beach Road, Garapan
670.234.0960

IAC
Individual Assurance Company, Life, Health & Accident

Man, 51, gets 3-day jail term for assault

The Superior Court has imposed a three-day jail term on a 51-year-old man who assaulted a person in 2008.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Jose Ilo Kapileo to six months in prison, all suspended except for three days, for assault and battery.

Govendo gave Kapileo credit for the three days he had already spent in jail when he was arrested.

The judge placed the defendant on six months of probation and required him to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and probation fee.

Govendo ordered Kapileo to pay a $100 restitution to the victim, Awu Li.

The judge directed the defendant to stay away and have no further contact with Li.

Govendo required the defendant to perform 50 hours of community work service.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Kapileo with assault and battery. The defendant and counsel, assistant public defender Michael Brown, signed a plea agreement with the CNMI government represented by assistant attorney general George Hasselback.

The plea agreement stated that on June 13, 2008, Kapileo "unlawfully, beat, wounded, and otherwise caused bodily harm to Awu Li." ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

2nd Annual 'Walk to Remember' set this weekend

Tan Holdings will hold its 2nd Annual "Walk to Remember", a three-mile walk and fundraiser this Saturday, Feb. 20.

The event is being held in honor of and dedicated to the memory of former company executive John "JP" Pangelinan. The walk also aims to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Registration for the walk starts at 5am by the Beach Road Pavilion in front of the JP Center in Garapan. Upon registering participants may begin the course.

For a $5 donation, a participant will receive a commemorative T-shirt and all registered walkers are entitled to refreshments at the end point of the walk at Susupe Beach Park.

Participants are requested to consider parking their vehicles by the Fishing Base area in front of Kristo Rai Church. After completing their walk, shuttle service from the Susupe Beach Park to the JP Center, Garapan Fishing Base, and Fiesta Resort & Spa areas will be available.

"Last year we had nearly 600 people come out for this beautiful morning walk. Everyone is encouraged to bring their family and loved ones to this meaningful activity. Your contribution will support a very good cause. We look forward to walking with all of you. Stay healthy and be well!" said organizers of the event.

About 'JP'

John "JP" Pangelinan, the former publisher of the *Saipan Tribune*, passed away two years ago but his memory will remain indelible for those who have been lucky enough to know him. Whether as a colleague, a friend, an uncle, or a dad, JP was the quintessential gentleman, full of compassion and good cheer, always smiling and not above a naughty joke once in a while.

In fact, it was JP's smile and sense of humor that most people remember him by. His laugh was his trademark. He would always come to work smiling and greeting the staff. A few minutes after arriving, he would come out of his office and start cracking jokes with everyone. His favorite target was the female staff, who would giggle at his earthy jokes. The staff loved him for it.

Besides his sense of humor, JP knew how to give praise to those who were doing well in their jobs. His thoughtfulness and his capacity to give praise where it is due made him the ideal boss. Yet he was also not one to mince words if he thinks you need to shape up. He was such a kind-hearted person, though, that he will say it in a manner that won't hurt.

As a boss, JP was a man of few orders but one thing he insisted on was fairness and compassion. He understood that news is news but he always emphasized the core value of fairness and balance and an overriding sense of compassion for those who are in the news, particularly for those who are cast in a negative light.

JP took the helm of the *Saipan Tribune* on Dec. 1, 2001. Before that, he worked for Tan Holdings for 23 years in various capacities on both Saipan and Guam. He had also served as president of Unity International Corp. in Guam. JP was born on Saipan on Oct. 26, 1937. He died on Feb. 5, 2008, after a long, brave battle with cancer. ***(PR)***

STRONG WORK CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy students who won in the Primary Grade Forensic Conference held last Feb. 6 at San Vicente Elementary School pose for a souvenir shot. The school, which mother church is celebrating its 25th anniversary this month, would like to congratulate its students, parents, coaches, and teachers for a job well done.

H1N1 Vaccine School Vaccination Campaign

Students and school staff who want to receive their H1N1 vaccine for the first time can also get in line!

Consent forms are availale at the school office. Turn in signed consent forms back to school before your vaccination date!

School Vaccination Schedule

February 16th - Tuesday - 8 am
- Mount Carmel School
- Saipan Community School

February 17th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Calvary Christian Academy
- Marianas Baptist Academy
- Saipan International School

February 19th - Friday - 8 am
- Chacha Junior High School
- Kagman High School

February 23rd - Tuesday - 8 am
- Marianas High School

February 24th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Saipan Southern High School
- Ladera International School

February 25th - Wednesday - 8 am
- Hopwood Junior High School

Rota, Tinian, and Private School Schedules are being finalized

DPH will be back at the schools to administer the 2nd dose of the H1N1 vaccine to students 9 years old and younger and for students and staff who have not received it.

The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.

No consent form, No Vaccine!

Visit any health clinic to get vaccinated.

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

DCCA Child Care Program opens for new applicants

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program continues to conduct pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants under the ARRA funds. The pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations:

■ Garapan Street Market on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2010 between 6m and 8pm.

■ Kagman Community Center "Puengin Inetnon," Feb. 26, 2010 between 5pm and 7pm.

■ DCCA Child Care Program Office ongoing Monday to Thursday, between 9am and 3pm and Fridays 9pm to 12pm.

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility assessment and will need to bring the following:

■ Three (3) latest checkstubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours by-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings (both parents)

■ Most recent 1040 tax (both parents)

■ School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credit)

■ Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly)

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Capital Hill. All applications picked up at the Garapan Street Market and the Kagman Community Center will be due on or before March 5, 2010 at 12pm. Incomplete applications as well as applications turned in after this date and time will not be accepted.

Forward all applications to: DCCA Child Care Program Office, Building No. 1347 Capital Hill, Saipan. Or for more information, call 664-2575

For this program opening approved applications will be funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and is valid only until Sept. 30, 2010. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Evelyn Mendiola, Councilman Prudencio Manglona Jr. and his wife Sharon, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola and hus wife Estrella, Rota High School director Chris Ayuyu, Rota High School principal Sharlene Manglona, and Brian Mendiola pose with 2LT Dennis Mendiola and his wife Anna during Feb. 1 event at RHS.

RHS alumnus turned US Army lieutenant honored

Rota High School alumnus and former Buck Battalion cadet Dennis C. Mendiola recently was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Rota High School celebrated their monthly flag assembly that included a recreation of the Commissioning Ceremony which was conducted by Lt. Col Howerton, Professor of Military Science at the University of Guam ROTC Program. This special ceremony was witnessed by 2LT Mendiola's wife, Anna, and his parents, Brian and Evelyn.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola gave his congratulatory remarks, and was accompanied by his wife Estrella. Also present were councilman Prudencio Manglona Jr. and his wife Sharon, former senator Edward Maratita, former representative Antonio Quituga and his wife Diane, PSS State Board PTSA vice president Dee Taimanao, RHS PTA president Therese Hizon, and the entire RHS student body, faculty, and staff.

Lt. Col. Howerton was the special guest speaker and administered the oath of commissioning. 2LT Mendiola was the guest speaker and eloquently stressed the importance of pursuing one's education, commitment to family, and the preservation of our indigenous language.

The RHS administration and the faculty are hopeful that the Feb. 1 flag ceremony will inspire each and every student to believe that they can fulfill their dreams and aspirations; all that is required is determination, hard work, and the belief that you can succeed. "Be all that you can be Hooah!" ***(PR)***

A drought in Hawaii? Big Island water haulers busy

PAHOA, Hawaii (AP)—Water haulers are keeping busy on the Big Island of Hawaii as a drought forces some residents to have water delivered.

About a third of the homes on the island are supplied by a rainwater catching system.

Residents pay about $130 to have an order of 4,000 gallons delivered.

Homeowners have grown impatient, while the haulers say they're working long days to try to fill all their orders.

Some residents are filling up their own water tanks and taking them home in their trucks or the trunks of their cars.

Recent rains in the area have helped a bit and reduced the waiting period for a water delivery from three days to one.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-RDLNR-048

SUBMISSION: MARCH 16, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) UTILITY TRACTOR - CIF ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB IS DUE ON **MARCH 05, 2010, CLOSE OF BUSINESS** AND SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO **MR. JOEY ANTHONEY QUITUGUA**, ACTING RESIDENT DIRECTOR AT TEL (670) 532-9494/5 OR BY FAX TO (670) 532-0520 OR E-MAIL TO **dlnr@pticom.com.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **MELCHOR A. MENDIOLA**
MAYOR OF ROTA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

/s/ **JOEY ANTHONY QUITUGUA**
ACTING RESIDENT DIRECTOR
DLNR, ROTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

for
Saipan American Education Foundation School

The public is invited to provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application #2010-0389, portion of Lot EA 109-New-1-1, 109-New-1-R1 (Chalan Kiya)

Date : March 1, 2010 (Monday)
Time : 5:30 pm
Place : Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, March 2, 2010. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Board Chairperson

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 16, 1999

DPH softens up on food-handlers' test

After strong protest from the business sector, the Department of Public Health has decided to include the controversial food handler's exam with the annual health screening of employees during the renewal of their contracts. HANMI president Ron Sablan met last week with Dr. Jon B. Brus, medical director of the Commonwealth Health Center and Celeste Andersen, legal counsel, where he was informed of the amendments in the health screening regulation which will be submitted to the Department of Labor and Immigration. "We are very pleased that they have accommodated our request in the best way possible without jeopardizing the health issue," said Sablan.

DOLI: Immunity is working well

A total of 1655 overstaying aliens have already availed the limited immunity program of the CNMI government based on the recent count made by the Department of Labor and Immigration. From this group, close to 600 individuals have secured temporary employment, while 21 had signed work contract good for one year. Both the Chinese and the Filipinos lead the pack, accounting around 500 amnesty seekers for each group. Bangladeshis and other nationals are also availing the amnesty to legalize their stay in the CNMI. "Yes, it's doing good," according to Jeff Camacho, who heads the task force implementing the amnesty.

Feb. 16, 2000

Labor and business reform code protects local workers

Local workers are adequately protected under the labor and business reform legislation introduced by House Speaker Ben Fitial, dismissing concerns raised by some sectors the proposed measure would displace local labor. Mr. Fitial said House Bill 12-039, which has the backing of the islands' business community, was drafted and introduced to primarily allow economic growth in the CNMI. Sufficient safety nets have been properly incorporated in the proposed measure to protect indigenous workers while eventually eliminating their reliance on government jobs.

House steps up efforts to entice new carriers

The House of Representatives is taking aggressive steps to encourage more foreign carriers to provide additional air transport services to the Northern Marianas in light of declining visitor traffic to the islands for over two years now. House Speaker Ben Fitial yesterday expressed confidence Armenian Airlines will be able to get the approval of the U.S. Department of Transportation for the carrier to operate on Saipan. The CNMI government, through the Economic Recovery and Revitalization's Aviation Task Force, has been trying to encourage other foreign carriers to provide air transport services to the island following Continental Micronesia's decision to stop direct flights to Saipan.

Feb. 16, 2001

OPA unveils modified internship program

To students who want to apply for internship at the Office of the Public Auditor, and OPA interns who want to go back to college, your wishes have come true. The OPA yesterday announced the launching of an aggressive internship program that will now allow full-time and part-time internships to college students and OPA interns who want to go back to school. Under the Proposed Audit Internship Program, students with a major, or planning to major in finance, economics, business, administration, business management, or criminal justice are qualified to apply in the program.

BPL takes squatting case to court

A local resident who allegedly erected a semi-concrete residential structure on a public land designated for agriculture and cattle grazing is being sued by the Board of Public Lands for trespassing and other damages. Superior Court documents state that the Marianas Public Land Corporation in April 2, 1992 issued a one year permit to Regino T. Camacho for the use of a three-hectare public land in Marpi on which to perform agricultural and grazing activities. The Division of Public Lands on May 7, 1999 found out that the defendant built a permanent structure on the piece of public land without authorization from the government agency. The plaintiff, in a case filed through Asst. Atty. General Jill Dean, has alleged that Mr. Camacho remains in intentional, wrongful possession of the land in question, and is thereby trespassing.

Tonga hit by cyclone but no injuries so far

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Northern and central Tonga were being slammed by Cyclone Rene on Monday, with powerful winds ripping off roofs, tearing down trees and power lines and cutting communications with the capital in the south of the country, officials said.

"We don't know the extent of the damage right now, though there are no reports of serious damage or injuries," the South Pacific nation's National Disaster Office deputy director, Mali'u Takai, said.

Contact with the northern Vavau island group was lost shortly after midnight as Cyclone Rene buffeted the low-lying atolls, tearing down trees, cutting roads and sparking coastal flooding as roiling seas surged ashore.

Initial reports were that the storm's winds had reached 72 mph (115 kph) near the main northern town of Neiafu, then dropped to just 8 mph (13 kph) as the cyclone's eye passed over the area. Damage was not as widespread as feared, he said.

The Ha'apai islands, middle grouping in the Tongan archipelago, "is also experiencing damage to trees, roads and power supplies," Takai said. "The seas there are rough and are going to get worse."

Tonga's Meteorological Office director Ofa Fa'anunu said they expected the storm center to head toward the main island of Tongatapu later Monday.

The cyclone was already sparking heavy rain and had cut power supplies in the capital, Nuku'alofa. Tonga has some 101,000 people.

Earlier the office warned that the cyclone could "increase to very destructive hurricane force."

The storm missed both American Samoa, a U.S. territory, and the neighboring island nation of Samoa on Saturday, causing heavy rains, high winds and heavy sea swells but sparing more devastation to both areas, which were battered last year by a tsunami that killed 226 people.

Rene never made landfall on either American Samoa's main island of Tutuila or the Manu'a island group. At Sunday church services, residents of the U.S. territory offered prayers and hymns of thanksgiving that American Samoa escaped the worst of the cyclone.

American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono said a preliminary report indicated minimal damage to homes and government property from the storm which did knock down trees and cause scattered power outages.

Tulafono confirmed there was one death indirectly caused by Rene—a 50-year-old man, who fell from a two-story apartment building while trying to board up a portion of the building on Friday.

He said the government was conducting a damage assessment on the main island and the Manu'a group.

About 300 people sought refuge at emergency shelters Saturday morning, but many of them had returned to their homes by Sunday morning.

Tom Valahulu said via telephone from Fitiuta village in American Samoa's Manu'a island that he is very surprised more damage was not caused by the cyclone.

"The winds were very, very strong and my family kept running when one side of the house to the other side for safety when we heard the winds shifting around," Valahulu said. "The winds were really bad, and thankfully not much damage was caused and no deaths in my village."

Valahulu said he knew of three homes with "very bad damage" at Fitiuta village.

Valahulu said the strong winds uprooted banana trees and breadfruit trees, with a lot of debris.

A native of Tonga, Valahulu is very concerned for his family at Tonga's Vavau island. Valahulu said he is trying to reach his family via telephone.

Inter Island Airways, which provides domestic service, said there was no damage to the runways at the two domestic airports in Manu'a and fights resumed Sunday morning. Flights were suspended last Thursday.

Australian court sentences 5 men in terror plot

SYDNEY (AP)—An Australian court Monday sentenced five Muslim men to prison terms of 23 to 28 years after convicting them of preparing for terror attacks on unspecified targets by stockpiling explosive chemicals and firearms.

Justice Anthony Whealy of the New South Wales Supreme Court said he had little hope that the men, aged 25 to 44, could be rehabilitated, saying they were motivated by "intolerant, inflexible religious conviction" and had shown contempt for the Australian government, its leaders and laws.

The men were found guilty last October on charges linked to preparing for a terrorist act between July 2004 and November 2005. The men—Australian-born or naturalized citizens with Muslim immigrant backgrounds—had all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

They had stockpiled explosive chemicals and firearms, though it was not established where they would target.

During the trial, a former associate of the suspects testified that the group had considered bombing an Australian Rules football final in Melbourne in 2005 that was attended by almost 92,000 people. Prosecutors said they had also discussed killing former Prime Minister John Howard.

Whealy has restricted the media from publishing the men's names. One of the men participated in a terrorist-run paramilitary training camp in Pakistan, and three others attended similar camps in New South Wales to prepare for an attack.

"One particular feature of this trial was the fact that a considerable volume of extremist material was held by each offender in common with the other conspirators," Whealy said, noting that was "powerful evidence" that they jointly held extremist views.

The men had faced a maximum penalty of life in prison. The judge allowed for parole after the men serve from 17 to 21 years in prison.

28 whales euthanized after New Zealand stranding

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Twenty-eight pilot whales died or were euthanized by conservation workers after a mass stranding on a remote New Zealand beach, an official said Monday.

Department of Conservation workers found nine whales dead on Stewart Island's West Ruggedy Beach on Sunday after they were alerted by a passerby, biodiversity manager Brent Bevan said.

Wild seas and strong winds made it impossible to mount a rescue for the 19 survivors, he said. Conservation officials were forced to euthanize the animals, otherwise they would have suffered greatly, he said.

"There was no way we could attempt a rescue in those sea conditions," Bevan told The Associated Press. "We could either euthanize the whales, or leave them to suffer on the beach for two days. We didn't have any options."

It was the fourth mass stranding on the New Zealand coast in recent months. Some 140 pilot whales died in the three other beachings, while 76 were refloated by rescuers.

Whale strandings are not uncommon on Stewart Island, the third largest of New Zealand's islands. In 2003 about 160 whales stranded and died there.

Large numbers of whales become beached each summer in New Zealand as they pass through Antarctic waters on their way to South Pacific breeding grounds. Scientists have been unable to explain why it occurs.

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The persons featured in last week's photo have been identified as, from left, Felipe A. Salas, Antonio R. Deleon Guerrero (Apa), William Nabors, Esteban I. Pangelinan, Fernando M. Benavente, and Vicente N. Santos. Seated is Marianas District Administrator Peter T. Coleman. Photo circa 1967. Identified by Ben M. Taitano, Doris Drew, Maria Cruz, Lillian Camacho, Carmen Crisostomo, Richard Santos, Margaret Muna, Angie Deleon Guerrero, Dominic Chong, Canice Taitano, Ben Borja, Rick Torres, and Asunta Agulto.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CPA-RFP-001-10

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed cost proposals for trash collection services for a period of two years. The collection locations and scope of work package is available Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers are encouraged to contact CPA's Terminal Maintenance Department at 237-6500 to make arrangements for a site visit of the trash collection locations.

Interested proposers must submit one original and four copies of the sealed cost proposals for a term of two-year service, a description of proposer's past performance and experience, list of equipment, and proof of insurance in compliance with CPA's insurance requirements. The employees of the winning proposers who will access secured areas at the airport will be required to obtain an airport security badge which includes finger-printing and a criminal background check, which will be at the expense of the proposer.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 19, 2010**, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO February 1, 2010
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 39

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Jobs bill is latest study in political dysfunction

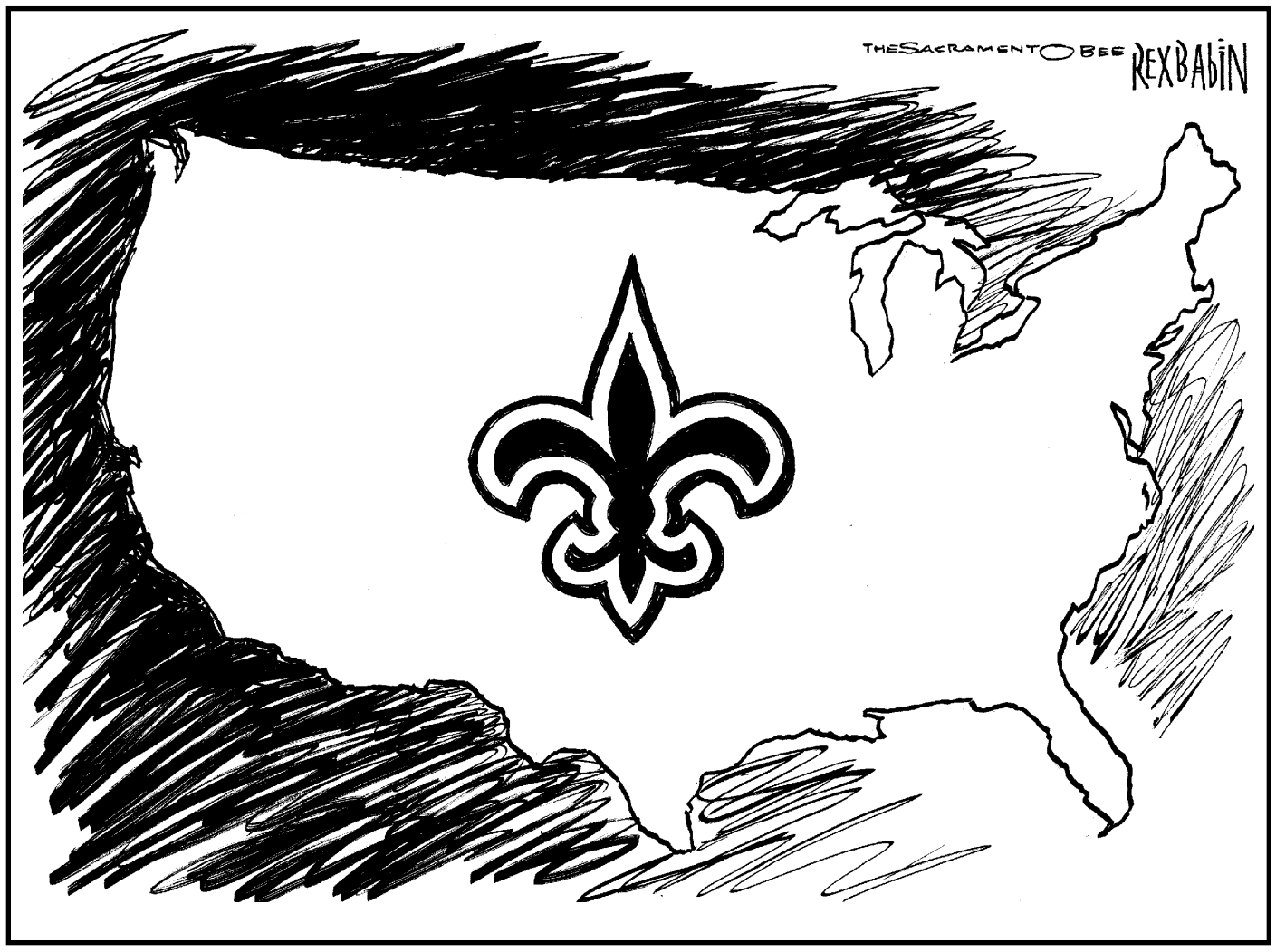
The unemployment rate is 9.7 percent. White House forecasters predict it will remain around that grim level through the rest of the year. So, not surprisingly, the one thing everyone in the fractious United States seems to agree on is the need for jobs. Voters tell pollsters it's their top concern. President Barack Obama has offered ideas. Congressional Republicans and Democrats have chimed in with their proposals. Politicians of both parties are pledging earnestly to work together to "get something done."

And yet, despite this superficially propitious climate for government action, confusion reigns. Here is what has happened in the past couple of days. Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, produced an $85 billion draft bill whose centerpiece was a proposal to cut payroll taxes for businesses that hire unemployed workers. The White House praised it, saying it included "several of the president's top priorities for job creation." Then, suddenly, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., spiked it in favor of his own narrower $15 billion bill. He claimed that the Baucus-Grassley product was so full of routine tax break extensions that it "watered down" the job-creation "message." Translation: He got an earful from other Democratic senators about the bill's political liabilities. Meanwhile, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., objects to the idea of any jobs tax credit. She's chagrined, to put it mildly, that the president and the Senate aren't behind the $145 billion bill, laden with spending on traditional Democratic priorities, that her chamber passed in the name of job creation in December.

To be sure, we're skeptical about how many durable private-sector jobs any of these measures would actually "create." The payroll tax cut, which is the brainchild of Democrat Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., and Republican Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, is relatively efficient as such measures go—possibly simpler and quicker-acting than the tax credit that Obama has proposed. Yet like the president's scheme, it pays employers to speed up hiring they probably would have done eventually anyway, which is not quite the same as "creating" jobs.

What's noteworthy is how much trouble Congress and the White House have agreeing on even a tepid economic bill. Under the pressure of a brutal recession and the November election, Republicans and Democrats are unable to work together even when they agree on a purpose. We may soon look back nostalgically on the days when partisanship was Washington's biggest problem.

(c) 2010, The Washington Post



Uncertainty continues

In the past week, we were asked to do yet another presentation for a group of human resource managers. Their main concern, which reflects the primary concern of employers, is how do we preserve the workforce? That is, of course, the flipside of the foreign worker's main concern, which is how do I maintain my job and my status in the CNMI? We hesitated to agree to the presentation because people look to us for solutions to complex problems and we don't like to disappoint them. Unfortunately, for most of the immigration questions related to employment, there are no ready answers yet. In today's column, we will revisit the main employment related issues to see how they have evolved thus far.

Umbrella permits

The purpose of the umbrella permit program was to provide stability for the two years immediately following the federal takeover of immigration in the CNMI. The permits issued are conditional and can be revoked if certain conditions are not met. The conditions that must be met depend on the category of the permit and the individual situation of the permit holder. So for example, if the permit holder is a foreign worker, he must show that he has been renewed or has found a new employer. If he is looking for a job, he must register with Employment Services and report back within a certain time. Students must show that they continue to be students; immediate relatives of U.S. citizens must show that the qualifying relationship continues, dependents of foreign workers must show that their sponsor continues to be employed and earn the qualifying wage. These are just common examples, but there are many other possible conditions depending on the individual case. Each umbrella permit has a "report back date" on the face of the permit. That is the date by which the permit holder must comply with the condition of his permit.

We have had reports from clients about difficulties at Labor when they attempt to "report back" and comply with the terms of the umbrella permit. We are told that Labor is working on rectifying these problems. Our advice is to continue to report back and document all contact with the department, including the date and time of the contact, and the name of the DOL employee or employees meeting with you. Make extra copies of everything you submit and have the extra copy stamped as "received." Keep all your documents together and in a safe place. Seek the assistance of a qualified attorney if you encounter repeated problems.

Many people believe that an umbrella permit is a two-year blanket authorization to live and/or work in the CNMI. That is not the position of the CNMI Department of Labor. The position of the CNMI Department of Labor is what is outlined above. We have heard that USCIS may be taking a different view. We understand that an important policy memo with respect to umbrella permits is forthcoming from USCIS. We will have to wait and see how that plays out.

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

CNMI-only, US non-immigrant status categories

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 ("CNRA" or federalization law) authorized two new CNMI-only non-immigrant categories: the CNMI E2 and CW1 and CW2 categories. The CNMI E2 category will be available to certain long term investors who were already established in the CNMI prior to Nov. 28, 2009. This category will expire on Dec. 31, 2014. The purpose of this status is to give qualifying foreign investors time to either convert to a more permanent U.S. immigrant or non-immigrant status or to wrap up their businesses and depart the CNMI. Although regulations with respect to this category were published by USCIS in September 2009, we await final regulations. Until final regulations are published, no applications for CNMI E2 status can be processed.

The CW1 category will be available for qualified employers to hire foreign workers who do not qualify for another U.S. status. The CW2 category will apply to the foreign workers' dependents. The problem here is the same as with the CNMI E2: no final regulations have been issued and therefore no applications for CW status can be processed. This is a pressing concern. We estimate that over 90 percent of the CNMI's foreign worker population will fit only into the CW category; other U.S.-employment based categories have requirements that we believe either the employee or the employer will not be able to meet.

Regular US immigrant and non-immigrant status

Under U.S. immigration law, the status of foreigners in the United States is divided into immigrant and non-immigrant categories. Immigrant status is usually family based or employment based (including investors). (There are a number of special category visas that apply to very limited numbers of people and are generally not

See FORUM on Page 13

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Yanbian

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Regular opinion page contributor Jaime R. Vergara joined the Beijing-Saipan inaugural flight late January and has since been sending reports of interest to the CNMI from locations in China where current CNMI residents are from.

Yánbian Cháoxianzú Zìzhìzhou is Pinyin for the Yanbian Autonomous Region in China, located in Jilin Province in the Manchurian plains. I include here the Chosungul or Hangul 연변(옌벤) 조선족 자치주 characters of the same to pique the curiosity of the non-Korean Chinese population who may not care much about the proprietor of the convenience store, Laundromat, and Poker room in their neighborhood, a target sometimes of the violent brunt of our despondent juvenile delinquents' despair, but also to catch the attention of some of our Korean Chinese island residents who may not be aware of our growing interest in their place of origin, as well as the treasure and gift that they are to the economic sustainability and cultural promise of the Commonwealth.

First, a word about the Koreans in the CNMI in general. What is missed in accounts of the Japanese administration before the end of WWII is the identity of some of the island residents and occupying military forces of Korean-descent. Yes, they were Japanese to the degree that Korea at the time was a protectorate of the Japanese Empire but save for their racial affinity to the Ainu, Koreans are ethnically and culturally different from the Yamato of Japan who are racially closer to their southeast Asian cousins and the ancient Hans in the coastal regions of East China Sea.

The observant CNMI resident will wonder what the little patch of land at the corner of Beach road and the Sugar Dock road by the Mt. Carmel Cathedral is about since it seems to get a lot of attention from tourists. It is actually a memorial park for people of Korean descent who perished on island during the hostilities of WWII. Unobtrusive, it is very well tended, and solemnly revered.

At present, the financial and cultural presence of Koreans in the CNMI is formidable. Bold and venturesome in their investments, unified in their communal identities, mutually supportive in corporate struggles that pits them against non-Koreans, colorful in attire and spicy in taste buds, they will loudly outbelch anyone after generously imbibing in their *su ju* (liquor) and noisily devouring their *bulgoggi* (b-b-q), and out belt anyone with their melodious *arirang* and *sarang hae!* This stereotyping is as much of my friends *(Hankuk saram* of South Korea and *Chosun saram* of the North) as they are mine.

Second, a word about the Chinese in the CNMI. The first Han and She (Guangdong and Fujian) traders originated from Taiwan, the Philippines and Hong Kong. They were in the Pacific with the Spanish sailors and venturesome 'junks,' but their numbers in the CNMI shot up with the garment industry. The factories heavily recruited from the environs around the coastal provinces close to Shanghai (Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Shandong) for their skills, and got the lively Manchu and their *Koryo-saram* cousins from industrial Manchuria for their enthusiasm and cheap employment worth.

If one were to push further on the identity of some of our Korean-speaking Chinese in the CNMI, it would not be surprising to find all of them originating from Manchuria, and most particularly, the Yanbian region in the province of Jilin. This is a remnant of the ancient Korean kingdom of Koguryo, which found itself in the last four centuries to be the battleground between the warring forces of China, Japan and Russia forces.

In 1952, shortly after Mao's *Gòngchandang* established the People's Republic of China and crossed the Yalu River in defense of the beleaguered *Chosun-sarams*, the Yanbian Korea Autonomous Region was established. At the time, more than 60 percent of the population of the designated area was Korean. Later, especially after the diplomatic relationship between Seoul and Beijing was established, and Korean companies began operating in Yanbian, the Korean Chinese began seeking upward mobility through their employ, and some of the *Koryo-sarams* began moving out with the companies that utilized their services into other parts of China, the Koreas and Japan, and of course, the CNMI.

The out migration has become so rapid and massive that even PRC's preferential treatment of ethnic minorities, allowing them more than the one child policy that was strictly inflicted on the Hans, and actually awarding them when they have a third child, did not seem to work in Yanbian. There is now the danger of having the Autonomous region revert into mainstream as the population of the Korean-Chinese in the region is down to 33 percent. The national policy is for 30 percent of a protected ethnic group to be together in a particular geography to qualify for their own autonomous administrative structure.

The telling of this is not meant to be a sterile lesson in Social Studies. There is a curious serendipitous convergence in our midst that we may miss. I know a young man we graduated from PSS whose youthful exuberance borders on the criminal but who was born in Yanbian and is facile in Korean, Chinese and Japanese languages, have added English in the last three years, and has enough exposure to Russian to be able to pick up the language, if he so desires.

His delinquency has been abetted by the mistreatment and abuse he personally feels was his lot in the CNMI after his mother dragged him out from Shanghai. "Our abattoir looked more sophisticated than Saipan's International Airport," he said, "and yet, I was vilified and disrespected for being Chinese." Were he to reach a more harmonious perspective of his gifts and the place where he is now, the young man could write his own ticket in the visitors' industry that we as a Commonwealth are trying to promote. A speaker in five tongues—*Putonghua, Hangul, Nihongo, Russkiy,* and *English*, he might unfortunately find himself first in the monkey house before we recognize what a valuable asset he is in the future of our economy. Or worst, some nitwit will get Homeland Security to have him deported!

The *Koryo saram* of Yanbian, not unlike their ancestors of old who moved about a wide geography and went to other parts of the world, came to Saipan to stay. And here they will stay. It would be to our interest to claim their gifts as invaluable human resource, and ensure that their tribe, and ours, thrive!

Liñguahen Chamorro

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Man-inkatga un` miyinariu ni mas modetnu na botin layag. Todu mapegaye batunis deste guinaifen mañglu, tinilaikan afnu yan mati, amanu `nai gaige boti gi halom tasi, yan otru siha infotmasion.

Dispues ha huñgog na guaha siña hana setbi pution siha gi lañget, i pilan yan pution, pañgpañg tasi, i mapagahes, yan guinaifen mañglu. Humanau para Guam ya mamaisen para umana fan mattu i tradisionat na kapitan tasi ginen Satawat.

Ha punu todu trastis yan makenarian botiña layag ya ha faisen i los prohimos para umasugun para iya Satawat. Taftaf gi chatagmag gi sigiente dia mapañgun i miyinariu ya mafanuegue na esta makomple tinago`ña. Mampos nina` matman ya ilelegña "Haf` taimanu este?"

Ineppe ni piluñg na kapitan: "Señor, hagas ha` i tanu mami guine". A`Saina! Huñgan, siña guaha siha modetnu na trastis ni tafa` usuta pago, lau I tradision natibu deste kuatro mit años antes trabiha i mas fitme yan asigurau gi todu manera.

■ ■ ■

Tumotohgi amiguhu gi plasan batkon aire giya Luta para u birague tatte Tinian. Estaba gi tatteña man-amiguña para Saipan. Ha sañgane na u pega katgan niha halum. Ha lie` un` kahita sumen makat. Ha suspecha na katnin binadu.

Ha sañgane i empleau batkon aire na u pegaye papet para Tinian. Man-annae` felisitasion ya kada unu kahulu gi batkon aire, separau. `Nai man-mattu Saipan i man-amiguña ti siña masoda` i kahitan binadu. Mañaleg sa` man-nina salakumba nu i amigun niha.

Man-hanau dispues para i Fiestan San Jose, Tinian. Gi uttimu haane, manañga estake taigue amigon niha gi gima. Man-hanau guatu ya todu katnen guaka, babue yan manog man-maumpañg para i puettu. `Nai mattu tatte i prohimu gi gima niha, ha lie` na taya sinaguaña i kahun ais (deep freezer). Chumaleg ya ilegña, "Tabla!"

■ ■ ■

Mampos bula tautau man-mamatai ya guaha nai fahalañg mapasalista haye para hulu yan papa. Finaisen si Lusifet as San Pedro na para u famahan makinan fax para u libianu chechu niha. Ilegña si Lusifet na mauleg lau taya salapeña.

Ilegña si SanPedro na para guiya u fahan i makinan fax lau solu prinimesague as Lusifet na para u inapase dispues. Tres mesis dispues, sige si San Pedro ha kobla si Lusifet ni kuentaña. Ni un` biahe `nai ineppe. Mapus papa` sasalaguan ya hasañgani si Lusifet na para u kineni para i kotte. Ilegña si Lusifet: Lau manu ni para un` fañgone abugau-mu?"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tinian alert 1—value your freedom

It is well documented in the chronicles of United States and World History that the island of Tinian, and its people, have sacrificed all to defend the United States during and after World War II and have therefore helped to ensure and protect the American way of life, and democracy as a whole.

And once again it seems, the Chamorro-American citizens living on Tinian will soon play another major role in American history, preparing again to sacrifice all to defend your way of life and the Motherland (USA).

Today, plans are underway to relocate U.S. Marines from Okinawa to the Mariana Islands. To the detriment of the Tinian people the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) for the Marianas military build-up serves to provide a thorough examination of the potential impacts to people and the environment on Guam, with little effort made to investigate the same issues that will drastically effect the lives of all Tinian people, both present and future generations included.

Making matters worse, the only alternative use for Tinian considered thus far in the DEIS is in the form of developing a series of live fire ranges right smack dab in the middle (the heart) of our tiny island, and right on top of the best farmland in all of the Western Pacific region that has in the past and continues to provide sustenance and food security for the people of the Marianas Islands and Micronesia.

These live-fire ranges are expected to expand in future years to include activities such as full-scale company battles, coordinated air, sea and land assaults, and whatever else can be dreamed up.

In essence, the Draft EIS proposes the most volatile of activities (A live fire range complex)as the first and only option for Tinian without due consideration in the DEIS as to the impact of these activities on food security, soil quality, water quality, and the quality of life for the people of Tinian. Furthermore, the Draft EIS provides no recommended mitigation strategies to deal with the loss of agriculture production (mainly sustainable grass-fed beef cattle production) that the people of Tinian rely heavily on and that serves to provide food security for the region, which should logically be encouraged to support the influx of some 80,000 people that are expected to arrive on these islands as a direct result of the build-up.

If you don't think that food security is important, ask the good U.S. citizens of Rota, who are currently experiencing food shortages and food commodities price-hiking as we speak. The DEIS fails to consider as significant the loss of the Tinian Chamorro culture so closely tied to agriculture, and puts at risk our efforts in the past decades to develop sustainable tourism and agriculture industries for a diversified Tinian economy, and all of this in one shot, as the first and only alternative considered .

Pathetic! As I recall, the United States government is not in the habit of planning towards an atrocity, especially when it is unwarranted and may have a direct negative affect on the very citizens that have sworn allegiance to the United States and who have paid their dues to her. The U.S. citizens of Tinian deserve better than this. We deserve the sustainable and strategic development of our island to allow for agriculture, tourism, and a military presence as beneficial to each other and especially beneficial to the Tinian and CNMI economy, and all the while ensuring the safety of all the residents of Tinian, both local and military personnel.

Believe me, if the 3rd Marine Division moves to the Marianas, there are plenty of other alternative-functional uses for the island of Tinian that do not involve the total destruction and condemnation of the land and people (look at Chiget Beach), and all that for a bargain deal of almost nothing (13 jobs promised). Please understand that it is in the best interest of the U.S. military to protect this island and its vast underwater aquifers and prime agricultural

See TINIAN on Page 13

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

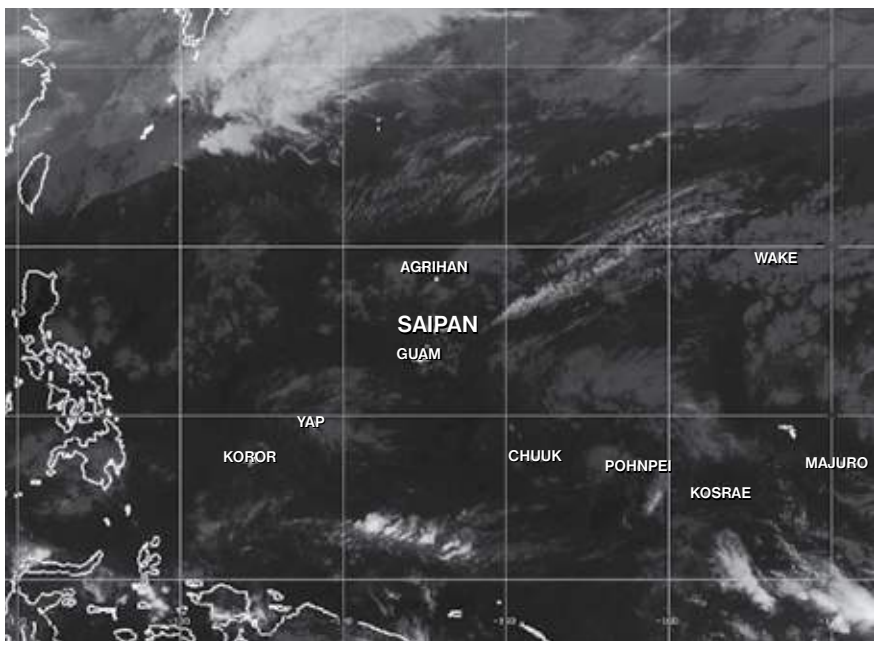
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼74
Palau	Rain	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼62
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲32	▼21
Hong Kong	Rain	▲61	▼55
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼68
London	Rain	▲44	▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼52
Manila	Sunny	▲91	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼59
Miami	Cloudy	▲71	▼48
New York	Snow	▲38	▼26
Osaka	Showers	▲43	▼32
Paris	Cloudy	▲36	▼32
Pusan	Cloudy	▲44	▼34
Rome	Rain	▲53	▼45
Salem	Showers	▲53	▼35
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼49
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼18
Tokyo	Showers	▲45	▼34
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲38	▼23

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough approaching Yap extends from 12N138E to 9n139E with broken cloudiness and scattered showers within 125 miles of a line from 12N138E to 9N141E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers southeast of Palau within 75 miles of a line from 3N133E to 3N140E to 2N149E and north of Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 12N154E to 12N159E to 8N162E. A surface trough north of Majuro extends from 13N172E to 10N177E with scattered light showers with 150 miles of the trough. Marine stratocumulus clouds persist across Wake Island in an area between 15N and 23N from 160E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
9:21 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Wednesday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:40 AM	6:22 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:39 AM	7:59 PM
Wednesday	8:14 AM	8:46 PM
Thursday	8:50 AM	9:34 PM
Friday	9:28 AM	10:25 PM
Saturday	9:28 AM	10:25 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

FORUM

From Page 10

relevant to the CNMI; we will leave them out of this discussion.) We quickly review the most common of different types status potentially available to persons residing in the CNMI.

1 Lawful Permanent Resident (aka green card): this is a family based immigrant status that eventually may lead to U.S. citizenship. It is available to spouses, children and parents of U.S. citizens, and to spouses and children (but not parents) of U.S. lawful permanent residents. This type of visa is available for processing by qualified applicants. Applications from the CNMI, if both the applicant and the beneficiary reside in the CNMI, are processed quickly. Interviews take place on Saipan and, except for the fees, for most people, the whole process is relatively painless. If the foreign beneficiary, for example an alien spouse, does not reside in the CNMI, then the application is processed by the State Department and is sent out to the alien's home country U.S. consulate; in this case the processing will take longer.

2 H1 status: this is an employment based status which is initially non-immigrant, but an H1 visa holder may later apply for immigrant status. The H1 petition must be made by the employer who must show that there are no U.S. citizens available for the position and that the employee will be paid a "prevailing wage." The employee must be a professional with at least a four year college degree.

The issue here is "prevailing wage," which must be certified by the U.S. Department of Labor ("DOL"). DOL has been conspicuously absent from the CNMI. It is one of the implementing agencies of the CNRA and yet, to date, they have failed to make a single appearance in the CNMI. DOL has not established an office, has not issued regulations, has not designated a liaison or even any contact person for inquiries regarding CNMI prevailing wage determinations. Without concrete guidance from DOL as to how prevailing wage for the CNMI will be determined, no applications for H1, and other applications requiring labor certification, can be processed by anyone who does not choose to apply and take their chances.

3 H2 status: This is an employment based non-immigrant status available to employers of temporary workers for temporary jobs. We foresee very limited utility for this status in the CNMI at this time, with the exception of large construction projects. This application, like H1, requires certification from DOL with respect to prevailing wage. We anticipate that eventually the CNMI DOL will be able to make prevailing wage determinations for the CNMI, as the Guam DOL does for Guam, but that has not happened you. For the same reasons as for H1, then, H2 applications from the CNMI cannot be processed at this time.

4 L1 & EB1 intra-company transferee status: An intracompany transferee is an executive or manager (L1A nonimmigrant or EB1 immigrant) or specialized knowledge employee (L1B nonimmigrant) who has worked in that capacity for at least one of the last three years for the "foreign component" parent, subsidiary, affiliate or branch of a U.S. company. The advantage of "L" visas over "H" is that they do not require certification from DOL. In December we reported that USCIS considers that employment for a CNMI company during the past three years may qualify an L visa applicant, if, after November 28, the CNMI company still has a foreign component. We are now working on both L1 and EB1 applications on this basis.

There are other employment categories, but these are the ones most commonly available. We will have to report on the status of the various investor categories in another column.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

ALERT

From Page 11

grazing lands because Tinian has been proven in battle during the last go around (World War II) when Tinian made its historical U.S. military debut, supporting an estimated 150,000 troops (a formidable military force), and effectively solidifying Americas place as a world power, all on only 39 square miles of land.

The Americans living on Tinian and in the Commonwealth as a whole deserve better than to be so easily abused and forsaken (damaged forever), merely because it is convenient for the military in the short term. The Tinian project is not even budgeted in the Department of Defense budget so the range complex idea for Tinian is only a big waste of money and time as it will soon be scrapped because it just does not make sense. Do not hesitate. The people of Tinian are preparing to again make a total and complete sacrifice of all that we know and love to protect your way of life, we only ask for a few minutes of your time so that we are protected from our very own mother and protector.

Send in your comments on the DEIS, NOW! PLEASE! Tinian's fate will be decided in a matter of hours as the DOD established deadline for comments is Feb. 17, 2010. Send comments. Review the D EIS-Volume three. Spread the word, but please COMMENT RIGHT NOW! Here is a sample comment:

The Draft EIS for the Marianas Islands (As it pertains to the use of Tinian, USA) does a disservice to the people of Tinian, to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, and the country of America as a whole as it is lacking in credibility and logic entirely, and is therefore deemed unacceptable (A complete failure). We demand that the drafters of the EIS and the United States Military themselves develop an Environmental Impact Study just for Tinian that is at least as detailed and thorough as the DEIS has been for our beautiful island of Guam.

All alternatives should be considered in the new EIS, not just one stupid one (live-fire Ranges, hell no!), and a thorough investigation of each alternative should go toward ensuring that Tinian is protected so that this island can continue to sustain a local, military, and human presence.

It is suggested that the new EIS include all of the islands of the Northern Marianas since other islands in the Marianas archipelago are already being offered up to the military at a bargain price, behind closed doors.

Furthermore, in the new and improved EIS, regional food security should be a top priority and the military lease-back program that was developed, and has been hugely successful in diversifying Tinian's economy by allowing prime cattle grazing lands (43 locally owned grass-fed beef cattle ranches and growing) to be utilized, must be solidified and encouraged.

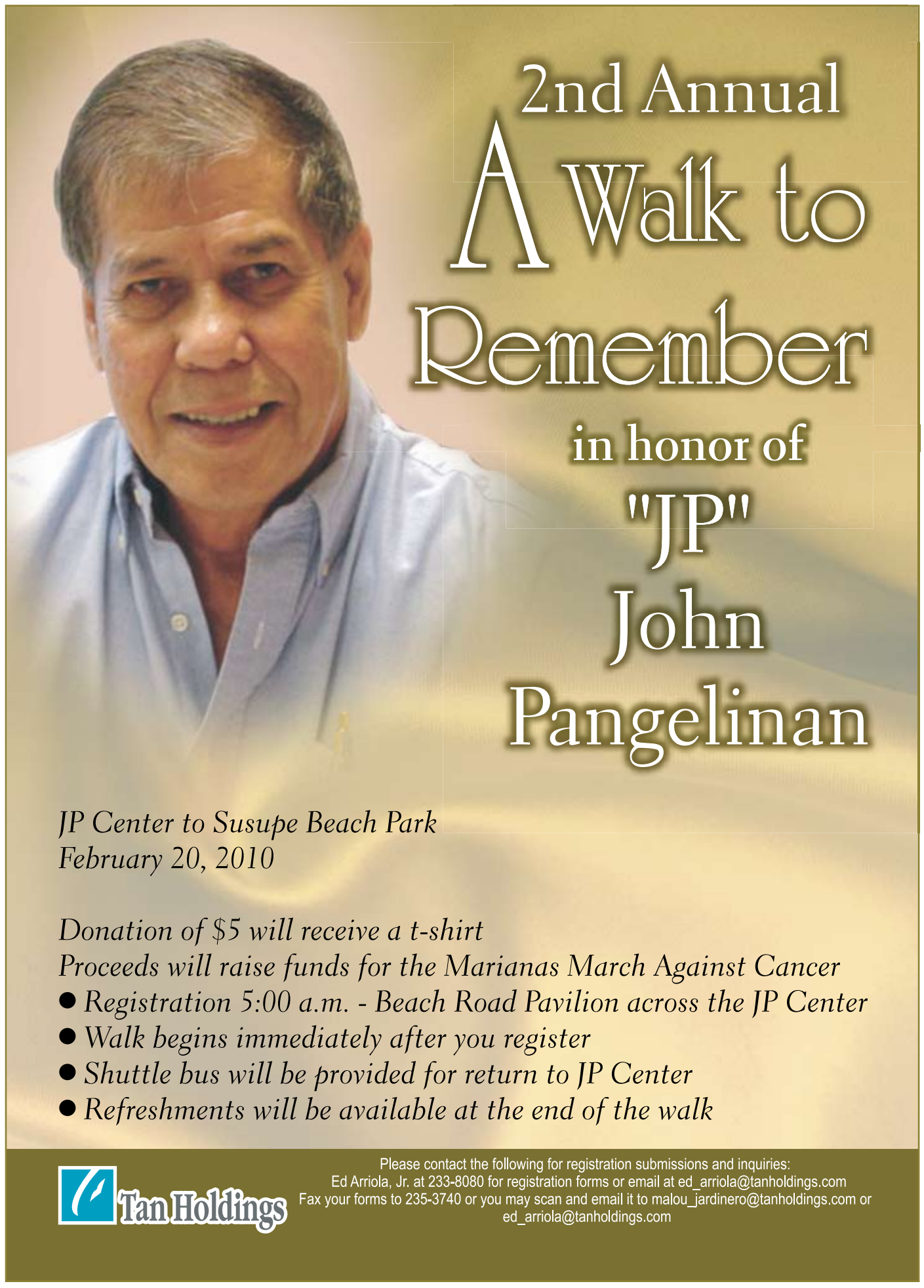
The re-negotiations of 1994 between the Department of Defense and the CNMI government should be honored, encouraging the growth of a highly sustainable grass-fed beef undustry (Just as Tinian has done in the past) that will add value and support the growing civilian and military presence in the region. Strategic alternatives considered within the in the new EIS should strive to focus primarily on utilizing only the military exclusive zone in the northern portion of Tinian island as agree upon.

Lastly, the new EIS should involve the good native American citizens of Tinian, and the many professionals that worked in Tinian and know her best, in the decision making process.

Send comments online at www.guambuildupeis.us or, send written comments to Joint Guam Program Office, c/o Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific, Attn: Guam Program Management Office, 285 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860, postmarked by Feb. 17, 2010:

God bless America and all of her protectorates!

Lawerence Duponcheel
Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and Tinian resident


2nd Annual
A Walk to Remember
in honor of
"JP"
John
Pangelinan
JP Center to Susupe Beach Park
February 20, 2010
Donation of $5 will receive a t-shirt
Proceeds will raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer
● Registration 5:00 a.m. - Beach Road Pavilion across the JP Center
● Walk begins immediately after you register
● Shuttle bus will be provided for return to JP Center
● Refreshments will be available at the end of the walk
Tan Holdings
Please contact the following for registration submissions and inquiries:
Ed Arriola, Jr. at 233-8080 for registration forms or email at ed_arriola@tanholdings.com
Fax your forms to 235-3740 or you may scan and email it to malou_jardinero@tanholdings.com or
ed_arriola@tanholdings.com

Business

US debt will keep growing even with recovery

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's bad enough that Greece's debt problems have rattled global financial markets. In the world's largest economic and military power, there's a far more serious debt dilemma.

For the U.S., the crushing weight of its debt threatens to overwhelm everything the federal government does, even in the short-term, best-case financial scenario—a full recovery and a return to prerecession employment levels.

The government already has made so many promises to so many expanding "mandatory" programs. Just keeping these commitments, without major changes in taxing and spending, will lead to deficits that cannot be sustained.

Take Social Security, Medicare and other benefits. Add in interest payments on a national debt that now exceeds $12.3 trillion. It all will gobble up 80 percent of all federal revenues by 2020, government economists project.

That doesn't leave room for much else. What's left is the entire rest of the government, including military and homeland security spending, which has been protected and nurtured by the White House and Congress, regardless of the party in power.

The U.S. debt crisis also raises the question of how long the world's leading power can remain its largest borrower.

Moody's Investors Service recently warned that Washington's credit rating could be in jeopardy if the nation's finances didn't improve.

Despite election-year political pressure from voters for lawmakers to restrain spending, some recent votes suggests that Congress, left to its own devices, probably isn't up to the task of trimming deficits.

Both the Obama administration and Democratic leaders have put job creation ahead of deficit reduction for now.

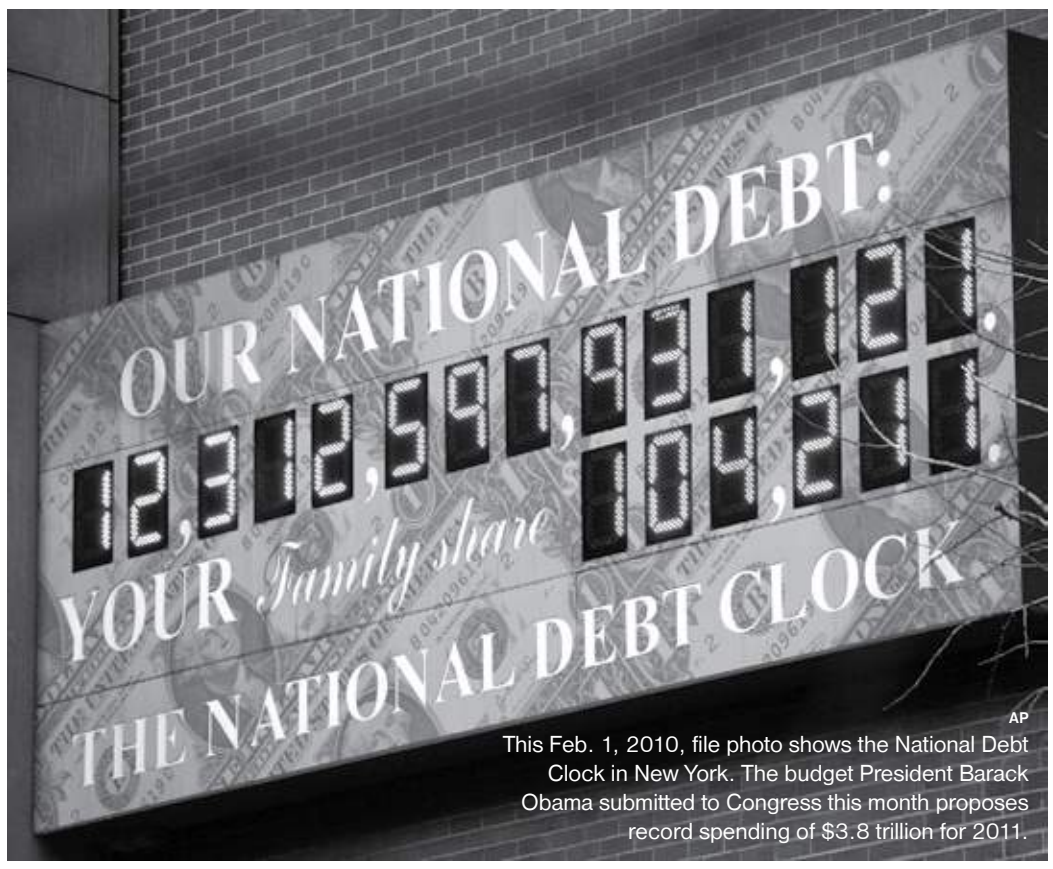
The Senate faces an important vote after it returns on Feb. 22 from its President's Day recess on a bill intended to stimulate job growth. The legislation offers a $13 billion payroll tax credit for companies that hire unemployed workers, including an additional $1,000 tax credit for workers retained for a full year.

Proposed belt-tightening steps by President Barack Obama, including a freeze on some nondefense, nonentitlement spending, would make only a small dent in the mountain of debt.

The budget he submitted to Congress this month proposes record spending of $3.8 trillion for 2011. Taxes in next year's budget will support only $2.5 trillion of that spending, leaving $1.3 trillion to be borrowed.

The president's budget is a best-case outlook, from the administration's vantage point.

It doesn't take into account future liabilities from the growth of entitlement benefits and is based on projected economic growth that depends on a solid recovery. It assumes Congress will pass all of Obama's initiatives, including spending cuts and tax increases previously rejected by Congress.



AP
This Feb. 1, 2010, file photo shows the National Debt Clock in New York. The budget President Barack Obama submitted to Congress this month proposes record spending of $3.8 trillion for 2011.

Samsung unveils new smart phone with own software

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Samsung Electronics Co., the largest maker of cell phones for the U.S. market, on Sunday revealed the first phone running Samsung's own "smart" software system, bada.

With bada, Korea-based Samsung is taking the TouchWiz system used on its touch-screen non-smart phones and making it the basis of a smart phone platform to take on Apple Inc.'s iPhone and Research In Motion Ltd.'s BlackBerry. Samsung also makes phones based on other competing smart phone systems: Android, created by Google Inc., and Symbian, of which Nokia Corp. is a major backer.

J.K. Shin, the president of Samsung's phone division, said the goal of bada was to expand the market for smart phones, making them available to people across the world who have made do with non-smart phones.

The new phone, dubbed the Wave, is a touch screen phone like the iPhone. It features a highly saturated, high-resolution screen using organic light emitting diodes, or OLEDs. Samsung said the phone will go on sale in April, but did not say if the U.S. would be one of the launch markets, nor did it say what the phone would cost.

AP
In this product image provided by Samsung, the Samsung Wave is shown.

To support the Wave and existing phones using TouchWiz, Samsung is launching online applications stores in 50 countries this year, including the U.S. Most major phone makers now operate applications stores, or make phones that use stores administered by others, like Google.

Recall woes show new challenges for 'Toyota Way'

TOKYO (AP)—Assembly lines that run like clockwork. Supplies that arrive just in time. Dedicated workers trained to spot defects, churning out quality cars in the millions. Such are the trademarks of "Toyota Way" manufacturing.

That's why the automaker's recent bungling over a spate of global recalls appears so out of character.

Those very principles of efficiency and flawlessness that earned Toyota Motor Corp. a near-perfect reputation couldn't prevent problems cropping up in areas outside the factory, areas just as crucial these days in the industry—design development, crisis management and software programming.

Toyota management simply failed to practice what they had long preached the rank-and-file, Anand Sharma, chief executive of TBM Consulting Group, based in Durham, North Carolina, told The Associated Press.

"Toyota managers did not respond to the early signals. That's when they should have identified the root causes," said Sharma, who teaches Toyota production methods to businesses. "If the Toyota brand no longer stands for quality, what does it stand for?"

Since October, Toyota has recalled 8.5 million vehicles around the world for accelerator, braking and floor-mat problems in the biggest recall in its seven-decade history.

The gas pedal and floor-mat defects were design errors in supplier parts, and the faulty braking in hybrid models was caused by a software glitch.

They weren't manufacturing errors, the kinds of defects workers at plants have been trained to pick out—a piece that doesn't fit, a crack in a part, something that diverges from the design.

Chrysler dealers upbeat, worried after meeting

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—As he walked out of an auditorium Sunday afternoon, Grant Irwin Sr. pretty much summed up the feelings of Chrysler dealers who had just spent two hours listening the automaker's new management.

The 73-year-old dealer from Northwest Oklahoma said he's impressed by the executives installed by Fiat and Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne, and optimistic about new cars and trucks that are coming.

But he's also wondering about the short-term, which he and other dealers somehow must survive with an aging model lineup that pushed sales down 36 percent last year.

"We're struggling," said Irwin, who runs a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealership rural Woodwind, Okla., about 140 miles from Oklahoma City. "We're going to sell less cars."

Dealer after dealer who exited the annual meeting at the National Automobile Dealers Association convention in Orlando, Fla., said they were happy with what they heard, but also said executives didn't offer any options to help them get through the next six months to a year when new products are scheduled to arrive.

Chrysler sold only 931,000 cars and trucks last year, down from 1.4 million in 2008. January sales were even worse, only 62,000 for the month, down 55 percent from the same month in 2009. "I think there's a lot of good things coming," said Paul Walser, who runs a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealership in Hopkins, Minn., near Minneapolis. "I think we're all wondering what the journey looks like between now and the time when all the product starts to arrive."

Chrysler plans to have 16 new or significantly redone models by the end of this year. The company has high hopes for a new lighter, and more efficient, Jeep Grand Cherokee that is coming around June. A redone Chrysler 300 and Charger, the new Fiat 500 minicar and a new Dodge sport utility vehicle are expected later in the year.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Kuwait's Zain said to sell Africa operations

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Kuwaiti cell phone operator Zain has accepted an offer from Bharti Airtel Ltd. to sell most of its Africa businesses as it refocuses on its home market in the Middle East, the country's official news agency reported Sunday. Zain earlier in the day confirmed that it had received and was considering a bid for the company's African operations, which account for the bulk of its customers, but did not name the suitor. Local newspapers said Bharti, India's largest mobile phone company, was behind the bid with a $10.7 billion offer. "Zain has received an offer in relation to its operations in Africa excluding Morocco and Sudan. The Board of Directors of Zain will be discussing this proposal" Sunday, the company said. "Further announcements will be made as appropriate."

Najaf airport tussle shows risks in Iraq investing

NAJAF, Iraq (AP)—Najaf's airport was meant to be a symbol of Iraq getting back to business, and in many ways it's been a success, creating jobs and spurring a construction craze in the Shiite shrine city. But an increasingly bitter dispute between local authorities and the Kuwaiti contractor brought in to run the facility is casting a cloud over one of Iraq's proudest postwar accomplishments and prompting accusations of political meddling. The standoff serves as a warning to other companies considering answering Baghdad's calls to snap up investment opportunities and pump needed development money into the country. It highlights how risks go beyond bombings to widespread corruption, uncertain legal protections and inadequate government oversight.

Singapore tries luring foreigners as casino opens

SINGAPORE (AP)—Foreigners and a few Singaporeans streamed to card and dice tables and slot machines Sunday at 12:18 p.m.—the lucky minute when tightly controlled Singapore opened its first casino. The city-state is counting on the Resorts World Sentosa casino and another opening in May to lure tourists and expatriates without besmirching Singapore's hard-earned reputation as corruption-free. The line for foreigners was long and deep at the midday opening, while few Singaporeans and permanent residents appeared eager to pay the fee required of them to enter. Chinese consider eight a lucky number because it sounds like prosper or wealth in the Mandarin dialect.

Nation

Ala. prof's family, friends: No hint of violence

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP)—An Alabama professor accused of shooting six colleagues was vocal in her resentment over being denied tenure and the looming loss of her teaching post, though relatives and students said she had never suggested she might become violent.

Not even Amy Bishop's husband knew she might turn violent, according to the man's father. Everyone from family and friends to her students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville said the intelligent and at times awkward teacher seemed normal in the hours before police say she opened fire in a faculty meeting Friday afternoon, leaving three dead and another three wounded.

Jim Anderson—the father of Bishop's husband, James Anderson—told The Associated Press on Sunday his son had no idea Bishop was planning the bloodshed she's accused of.

"He knew nothing. He didn't know anything," the father said. He said that the police had spoken with his son at length and that "they are doing a good job."

Indeed, there were many things Bishop apparently did not reveal to those around her.

In 1986, Bishop shot and killed her 18-year-old brother with a shotgun at their Braintree, Mass., home. She told police at the time that she had been trying to learn how to use the gun, which her father had bought for protection, when it accidentally discharged. In all, three shots were fired: Braintree police Chief Paul Frazier said she shot once into a wall, then shot her brother, then fired a third time into the ceiling.

Authorities released her and said the episode was a tragic accident. She was never charged, though Frazier on Saturday questioned how the investigation was handled.

Some of Bishop's colleagues, including William Setzer, chairman of the department of chemistry, told The Associated Press they did not know about her brother's death.

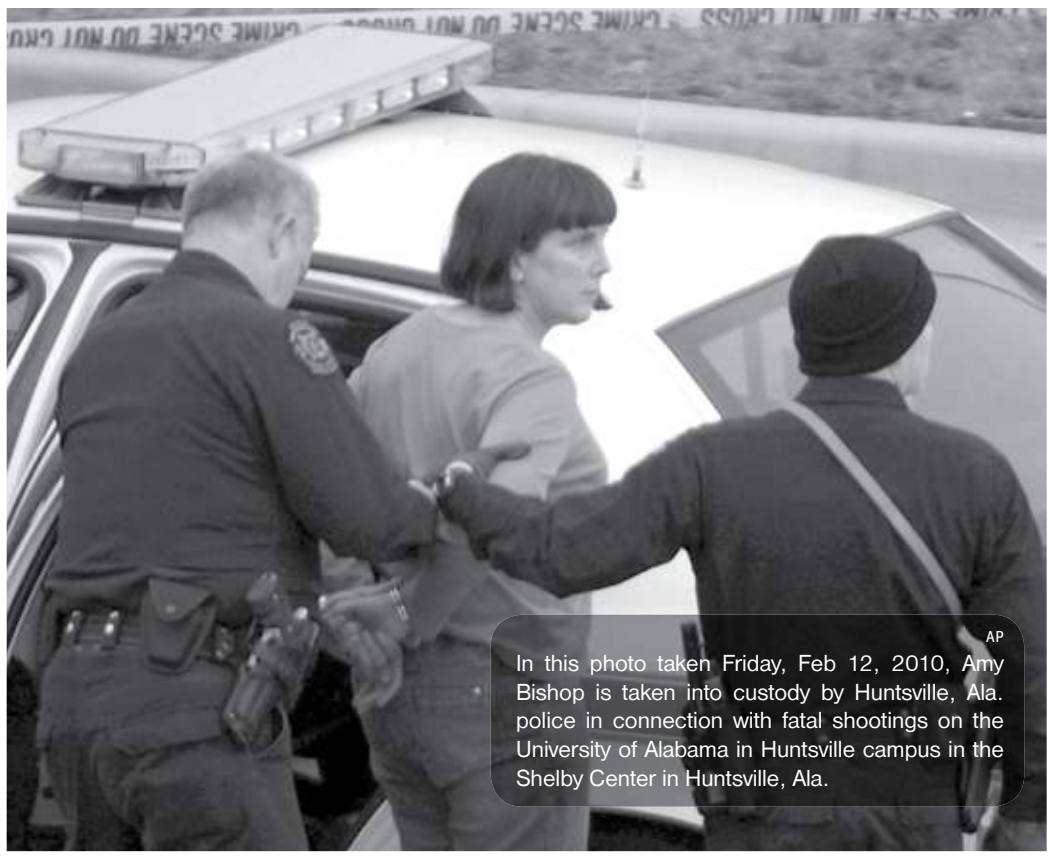
Police say the gun she's accused of using in the Alabama shooting wasn't registered, and investigators don't know how or where she got it.

Bishop, who has four children, was arrested soon after the shooting and charged with capital murder. Other charges are pending. Her husband was detained and questioned by police but has not been charged.

James Anderson said his wife had an attorney but would not say who it was. He declined further comment to The Associated Press on Sunday. However, he told the Chronicle of Higher Education earlier in the day that he had no idea his wife had a gun—nor did he know of any threats or plans to carry out the shooting when he dropped her off at the faculty meeting Friday.

Just after the shooting, Anderson told the Chronicle, she called and asked him to pick her up. She never mentioned the shooting, he said.

Even in the days and hours before the shooting, Bishop's friends, colleagues and students said she was acting like the intelligent—but odd—professor they knew.



AP

In this photo taken Friday, Feb 12, 2010, Amy Bishop is taken into custody by Huntsville, Ala. police in connection with fatal shootings on the University of Alabama in Huntsville campus in the Shelby Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Hundreds turn out for viewing of Murtha in W.Pa.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Hundreds of mourners braved light snow and bitter cold Sunday before slowly filing past the casket of late congressman John Murtha at a funeral home less than a mile from where he lived.

The mourners ranged from Gov. Ed Rendell to average citizens, especially veterans, who revered Murtha, a powerful Democrat who headed the House appropriations defense subcommittee.

Rendell said Murtha's death Feb. 8 at age 77 after complications from gallbladder surgery cost him a plainspoken friend and cost Pennsylvania "the best ally we ever had" in Washington.

Murtha's influence on Pennsylvania, and especially his ability to bring defense spending and jobs to the state following the steel industry meltdown of the 1970s and early '80s, was felt well beyond his 12th District, composed of parts of nine western counties, Rendell said.

"He was our go-to guy," Rendell said.

Rendell, who said that as mayor of Philadelphia he called upon Murtha for help, credited Murtha with saving the Philadelphia shipyard industry.

"Nobody is irreplaceable in the long run," Rendell said. "But he is as close to it as anybody I've seen."

Murtha's wife, Joyce Murtha, touted as a possible replacement for her husband, greeted mourners who had lined up outside the simple white-frame funeral home. His adult children and three grandchildren also greeted mourners.

Shuttle buses brought groups of mourners from a nearby parking area.

ACROSS THE NATION

Helicopter crash in north Phoenix kills 3

PHOENIX (AP)—A helicopter crash just north of Phoenix killed at least three people on Sunday afternoon, including a child, and officials couldn't rule out the possibility of more victims. Residents in the area known as Cave Creek heard noises and saw parts flying off the 6-seat helicopter before it crashed and burst into flames at about 3 p.m. MST. "I saw the helicopter flying in the air and that stuff that goes round, up, the rotors were coming apart and then I said, 'OK something wrong is gonna happen,'" witness Nicoleta Nork told KTVK-TV. "And I just saw it rolling, rolling and boom, then big smoke and yeah, terrible."

Deep South braces for another round of snow

ATLANTA (AP)—Several areas across the Deep South might soon be glazed with another coating of snow. The National Weather Service says 2 to 4 inches could fall late Sunday and early Monday across southern Tennessee and northeastern Alabama, while 1 inch to 2 inches could fall in parts of northern and central Georgia. Mountainous portions of Georgia and the Carolinas could get up to 3 inches. Several cities that are ill-equipped to deal with icy roads and piled snow, including Atlanta, were paralyzed by a snowstorm that dropped several inches of snow on the region Friday and Saturday. Thousands of flights were canceled at the nation's busiest airport in Atlanta, and icy streets caused hundreds of fender-benders in the region.

Gunman opens fire at Calif. church, wounds 2 teens

RICHMOND, Calif. (AP)—A man wearing a hooded sweatshirt walked into a San Francisco Bay area church and opened fire during a Sunday service, wounding two teenagers, police said. Two other men—also wearing hooded sweatshirts—were with the gunman when the shooting took place at about 12:30 p.m. in front of about 100 people at New Gethsemane Church in Christ in Richmond, police Sgt. Bisa French said. A 14-year-old boy was hit in the shoulder and a 19-year-old man was struck in the leg, she said. Both victims, whose name haven't been released, were hospitalized and were expected to survive. There were no other injuries.

Pa. rink's roof collapses during hockey tournament

ROSTRAVER, Pa. (AP)—The roof of a skating rink partially collapsed while the ice was being resurfaced during a youth hockey tournament Sunday, and emergency crews used cadaver dogs to search through the rubble for anyone who might have been trapped. Everyone who got out of the Rostraver Ice Garden was OK, but emergency officials didn't know how many people had been in the building and were searching the site, about 30 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. The director of operations for Rostraver West Newton Emergency Services said a 100-by-200-foot section of the roof fell Sunday afternoon.

Schools face big budget holes as stimulus runs out

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The nation's public schools are falling under severe financial stress as states slash education spending and drain federal stimulus money that staved off deep classroom cuts and widespread job losses.

School districts have already suffered big budget cuts since the recession began two years ago, but experts say the cash crunch will get a lot worse as states run out of stimulus dollars.

The result in many hard-hit districts: more teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, smaller paychecks, fewer electives and extracurricular activities, and decimated summer school programs.

The situation is particularly ugly in California, where school districts are preparing for mass layoffs and swelling class sizes as the state grapples with another massive budget shortfall.

The crisis concerns parents like Michelle Parker in San Francisco, where the school district is preparing to lay off hundreds of school employees and raise class sizes because it faces a $113 million budget deficit over next two years.

"I'm worried they're not going to have the quality education that's going to make them competitive in a global society," said Parker, who has three kids in district elementary schools.

Around the country, state governments are cutting money for schools as they grapple with huge budget gaps triggered by high unemployment, sluggish retail sales and falling real estate prices. A recent report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that 41 states face midyear budget shortfalls totaling $35 billion.

"The states are facing a dismal financial picture," said Jack Jennings, president of the Center on Education Policy.

Weather halts Alaska search for avalanche victim

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Rain, low clouds and predicted high winds Sunday grounded searchers seeking the body of a ConocoPhillips Alaska employee missing and presumed dead in an avalanche that killed the head of the company.

The avalanche at around noon Saturday on the Kenai Peninsula buried Jim Bowles, 57, head of ConocoPhillips Alaska, and Alan Gage, 39, part of the company's capital projects team in Anchorage. Gage remains missing.

"The weather is not cooperating and it's not conducive to search," said Megan Peters, a spokeswoman for the Alaska State Troopers.

The men were in a party of 12 snowmobilers in the Grandview wilderness area, part of the Chugach National Forest, between the tiny communities of Moose Pass and Portage.

Bowles was buried for about 45 minutes before companions using avalanche beacons dug him out. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Gage apparently was not wearing an avalanche beacon, troopers said.

Troopers and U.S. Forest Service personnel rode snowmobiles 15 miles to reach the scene. The railroad brought in Girdwood Fire Department personnel and a trooper helicopter flew in from Anchorage.

Ridgetop winds Saturday averaged 10 to 20 mph and mountain temperatures were in the mid-20s to low 30s. Conditions deteriorated overnight, with two inches of new snow falling at Turnagain Pass, about 15 miles north of Grandview.

Asia

US senator open to options on Japan base dispute

TOKYO (AP)—A member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee said Monday he's open to hearing options on how to resolve a dispute over the relocation of a contentious U.S. Marine base on the Japanese island of Okinawa.

Starting a weeklong tour in Japan and Guam, Sen. Jim Webb also called Toyota's recent recall problems—the subject of two congressional hearings next week—a "business issue" that wouldn't affect political ties between Japan and the United States.

U.S.-Japan relations soured after the new Tokyo government put on hold a plan to move Futenma Marine airfield on the southern island of Okinawa—part of a broader 2006 agreement with Washington to reorganize the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan—because of local opposition.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, who swept into power last August, has said he plans to make a decision on Futenma by May.

Webb, who has made numerous visits to Okinawa over the last 40 years, first as a Marine during the Vietnam War and later as a U.S. defense planner and government official, said the main purpose of his visit was to listen to the views of the Japanese government and people of Okinawa, where many resent the heavy U.S. military presence.

"There could be a number of practical options," Webb said about ways to resolve the Futenma issue. "I don't want to outline those options today because I don't want to cut short the discussions that we're going to have."

Webb said a solution needed to be found quickly "on the Futenma issue for the well-being of the citizens in that area."

"I am open to listening to all suggestions from the Japanese government and also the people of Okinawa," he told journalists at a press conference.

The Obama administration has insisted the Hatoyama government proceed with the 2006 plan to move Futenma to Nago, a city in a less crowded part of Okinawa that recently elected an anti-base mayor.

Webb said he did not recommend moving Futema's facilities outside of Okinawa, as many local residents want, but he also suggested he didn't necessarily support the Obama's administration's position.

"We're not a parliamentary system, so I am not obligated to support the administration in a specific way," he said.

U.S. Sen. Jim Webb speaks during a press conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo, Monday, Feb. 15, 2010.

AP

US rockets slam into Afghan home, killing 12

MARJAH, Afghanistan (AP)—Two U.S. rockets slammed into a home Sunday outside the southern Taliban stronghold of Marjah, killing 12 civilians after Afghanistan's president appealed to NATO to take care in its campaign to seize the town.

Inside Marjah, Marines encountered "death at every corner" in their second day of a massive offensive to capture this bleak mud-brick city filled with booby traps, hardcore Taliban fighters and civilians unsure where to cast their loyalty.

Marines confronted a fierce sandstorm as they ducked in and out of doorways and hid behind bullet-riddled walls to evade sniper fire. To the north, U.S. Army troops fought skirmishes with Taliban fighters, calling in a Cobra attack helicopter against the insurgents.

Insurgents littered the area with booby traps and explosives before the offensive, and the sound of controlled detonations—about three every hour—punctuated the day along with mortars and rocket fire.

"Our children are very scared by the explosions. When will it end?" asked Zaher, a 25-year-old poppy farmer who like many Afghans goes by one name.

The civilian deaths were a blow to NATO and Afghan efforts to win the support of residents in the Marjah area, a major goal of the biggest ground offensive of the eight-year war. Marjah, which had a population of 80,000 before the offensive, is a Taliban logistical center and a base for their lucrative opium trade which finances the insurgency.

Nationalists blame Pakistan for bombing in India

PUNE, India (AP)—India said Sunday it would wait for the findings of an investigation into this weekend's bakery bombing before responding to Hindu nationalists' demands to cancel upcoming peace talks with Pakistan, amid suspicions Islamic militants plotted the attack.

The explosion Saturday, caused by a bomb left in an unattended bag at a venue popular with tourists, killed nine people and wounded 60. It was the first major terrorist attack in India since the 2008 Mumbai massacre when Pakistan-based militants ran amok in the country's financial hub.

Security forces were immediately put on high alert at airports, train stations and markets across India.

The bombing came just a day after nuclear rivals India and Pakistan set a date for their first formal dialogue since the Mumbai attacks prompted New Delhi to suspend wide-ranging talks aimed at normalizing relations after six decades of hostility.

On Sunday, Hindu nationalist leaders blamed the attack in the western city of Pune on majority-Muslim Pakistan and demanded the government call off the talks, scheduled for Feb. 25 in New Delhi.

AP

A follower of Osho looks at the site of explosion near a German Bakery business in Pune, India, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

Arun Jaitley of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party said India shouldn't restart peace talks until Pakistan stops allowing terrorists to base themselves there and punishes those involved in the Mumbai attacks.

"Terrorism and talks can't coexist," Jaitley said.

Indian External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna said he would wait for the forensic experts' report on the bombing before commenting on the opposition demand.

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani denounced the blast and indicated his government still wants the new talks to go ahead.

"We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," Gilani told reporters.

The blast ripped open the German Bakery in Pune, 125 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of Mumbai. Thick patches of blood and severed limbs littered the popular hangout, which is close to the Osho Ashram, a popular meditation retreat, and a Jewish center officials say were previously scouted by a terrorist suspect now detained in the U.S.

Officials said one or two people posing as customers left a backpack containing a bomb in the bakery that exploded at 7:30 p.m. Saturday after a waiter apparently attempted to open it.

Sri Lankan Buddhists: Release opposition leader

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's top Buddhist monks urged the president Sunday to release his main election rival, who was detained on allegations of conspiring to overthrow the government while serving as army chief.

In a joint letter to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, the heads of four top Buddhist chapters condemned the arrest of Sarath Fonseka after his election defeat.

The chief monks are highly respected in the predominantly Buddhist nation, and their intervention could affect the government's plan to try Fonseka in a military court.

"We wish to stress that we do not under any circumstance approve of the arrest of former army commander Gen. Sarath Fonseka who risked his life for the country's unity," the monks wrote.

Buddhist Sinhalese make up more than 70 percent of Sri Lanka's 20 million people and the clergy enjoy a prime place in society. Political leaders traditionally seek the blessings and advice of the chief priests.

The monks asked Rajapaksa to use his presidential powers to clear Fonseka of all allegations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

12 killed as truck hits minibus in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police say a truck blew a tire and smashed head-on into a minibus in the southern Philippines, killing 12 people and injuring 15. Cagayan Valley police director Roberto Damian says the tractor-trailer was traveling at high speed Monday when one of its tires burst causing the driver to lose control and veer into the opposite lane. Some of the passengers were students on their way to school. The truck driver survived the crash but the driver of the minibus was killed. Poor vehicle maintenance and bad roads are blamed for many traffic accidents in the Philippines.

Rights group says missing Chinese lawyer in Urumqi

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese lawyer missing for more than a year is in Xinjiang in the far west of the country, a human rights group says it was told by Chinese authorities. However, the lawyer's family said it still has not been able to contact him. The case of Gao Zhisheng, one of China's most daring lawyers, has drawn international attention for the unusual length of his disappearance and for his earlier reports of the torture he said he faced from security forces. A short statement from the San Francisco-based human rights group, the Dui Hua Foundation, said it had been told by the Chinese Embassy in Washington that Gao was working in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang region.

Indonesia's Aceh holds first transvestite contest

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The first beauty pageant for transvestites has drawn dozens of contestants in Aceh, a semiautonomous Indonesian province that follows strict Islamic law. The Antara news agency reported Sunday that 19-year-old Zifana Lestisia from the northern district of Lhokseumawe was chosen the region's Social and Culture Envoy 2010. He will represent Aceh at the national level. Antara quoted the organizers as saying the pageant, held in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, was intended to wipe out stigma and strengthen friendships among transvestites.

Taliban release video of 2 French hostages

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban released a video Sunday of two French journalists kidnapped in Afghanistan in December pleading for their government to negotiate with their captors. The video was posted on a Web site and the link was provided by Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid. On it, the two journalists plead for their release and urge French President Nicolas Sarkozy to negotiate quickly with their captors. The pair disappeared Dec. 30 along with two or three Afghan employees while traveling in Kapisa province northeast of Kabul. French soldiers in the region are fighting the Taliban and other insurgents as part of NATO's mission in Afghanistan.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Israeli harem leader charged with rape, incest

JERUSALEM (AP)—An Israeli man who kept a cult-like harem of women and fathered dozens of children with them was charged in a Tel Aviv court Sunday with enslavement, rape, incest and other sexual offenses. The 25-page indictment accused 60-year-old Goel Ratzon of setting himself up as a "go like" figure who preyed on troubled women while treating them like "chattel." The case has captivated the Israeli public since Ratzon's arrest last month. Several of the women have come forward with details of their unconventional lives, describing their attraction to the man with flowing, long white hair. Ratzon, who remains behind bars, has denied any wrongdoing and said the women joined him voluntarily.

Irish bishop: no resignations on agenda with pope

ROME (AP)—Irish bishops one-by-one will give an accounting to Pope Benedict XVI of their views, actions or knowledge about decades of sexual abuse by clergy, a participant said Sunday, but resignations were not on the agenda for the Vatican's extraordinary summit over the scandal. "A casualty of all this has been the truth," Clogher Bishop Joseph Duffy said on the eve of the two-day summit. "The fullness of the truth must come out, everything must be laid on the table." Duffy, a spokesman for the Irish Bishops Conference, said the church was "admittedly slower than in needs to be" in grappling with a "culture of concealment."

Kenyan prime minister suspends 2 ministers

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenya's top two leaders issued contradictory statements about whether two Cabinet ministers had been suspended on Sunday following corruption scandals that have plagued their ministries. Prime Minister Raila Odinga said Sunday afternoon he had suspended Agriculture Minister William Ruto and Education Minister Sam Ongeri after "the requisite consultations have taken place in government. So this is a government decision." Kenya's power-sharing deal requires the president and prime minister to consult on Cabinet appointments or dismissals as the portfolios are split between President Mwai Kibaki's Party of National Unity and Prime Minister Raila Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement.

US forces scale back Haiti relief role

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The biggest U.S. military surge since Iraq and Afghanistan is scaling back a month after the troops arrived in haste to aid victims of Haiti's catastrophic quake.

Great gray ships have been leaving behind Haiti's battered shores as thousands of American troops pack up their tents. The mission, however, is far from over.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates says the U.S. will be in Haiti for the long haul, although troop strength is down to 13,000 from a Feb. 1 peak of 20,000. Those who remain will accompany Haitians in an arduous struggle toward recovery.

Within a broad international relief effort, U.S. forces have provided some of the most visible support to a nation whose government and infrastructure were nearly wiped out in less than a minute on Jan. 12.

They have shored up the capital's quake-damaged port to operate at several times its pre-quake tonnage, while acting as a security and logistics mainstay for U.N. food distributions. Military choppers have delivered life-sustaining relief to isolated villages.

The flow of injured quake victims to the USNS Comfort hospital ship has eased, but the need for medical facilities remains overwhelming in Port-au-Prince.

AP

A US Army solder drags a sack of rice during a food distribution operation organized by the US Army and Brazilian Army UN peacekeepers in Port-au-Prince, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

"We're pretty saturated. This is the chokepoint," said Air Force Maj. John Mansuy of St. Clairsville, Ohio, the operating room nurse in a tented, full-service unit with zipper doors and a positive air flow to keep out choking dust that blankets a landfill in the teeming Cite Soleil slum.

His medical team takes in people strapped to stretchers—with fractures, open wounds and other life-threatening maladies—before rushing them offshore to the Comfort.

The Haiti aid operation, costing the Pentagon $234 million and counting, has added a new strain to an already overtaxed military. About seven in 10 members of the Cite-Soleil's modern-day MASH unit are veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan—and many are scheduled to return there.

U.S. Southern Command chief Gen. Douglas Fraser would not specify during a weekend visit what U.S. troop levels would be in the coming months.

"Remember that the capability and the capacity the United States military brought in was for immediate relief," he told reporters.

The U.S. military already is turning certain tasks back over to the Haitians, such as daytime air-traffic control at Port-au-Prince's damaged international airport, where commercial flights are expected to resume by Friday.

The Haitians have generally greeted the Americans with warmth and appreciation, despite language barriers in the Creole- and French-speaking Caribbean nation.

One day at the gates of the collapsed Hotel Montana, a group of Haitian children greeted soldiers with the 82nd Airborne with a rendition of Michael Jackson's moonwalk. The soldiers replied with a moonwalk of their own. "Hey, you're good!" one of the kids shouted.

"No one is scared of them. They aren't aggressive, they wave hello. They have a peaceful attitude," said Jacques Michilet, 31, who lost his home and is raising two daughters in roadside shack.

Like many impoverished Haitians, Michilet doesn't just want the soldiers to stay: He wants his country annexed by the United States.

The U.S. military has not always been so welcome in its long history of military involvement in Haiti.

US seeks to shore up support for tough Iran stance

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—U.S. officials sought to shore up support Sunday for a tougher stand against Iran's nuclear program by saying Tehran had left the world little choice and expressing renewed confidence that holdout China would come around to harsher U.N. penalties.

Clinton

Even as the Obama administration intensifies its diplomacy, Iran is showing little sign of bending to the will of its critics. Past U.N. sanctions have had little effect. Some outside experts have detected what they believe are new slowdowns in Iran's nuclear advances, but the Islamic republic is believed headed toward having nuclear weapons capability in perhaps a few years—estimates vary as to when.

President Barack Obama's senior military adviser called for more time for diplomatic pressure to work and said from Israel, which has hinted that it might attack if negotiations to contain Iran's nuclear ambitions failed, that such action could have "unintended consequences" throughout the Middle East. Israel views Iran's nuclear program as a threat to its very existence.

While diplomatic patience has its limits, "we're not there yet," U.S. Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in Tel Aviv.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, on a quick visit to Persian Gulf allies Qatar and Saudi Arabia, told a forum on U.S.-Muslim relations that Iran has not lived up to its nuclear obligations and has rebuffed U.S. and international efforts to engage in serious talks. She said Iran has a right to nuclear power, but only if shown unequivocally it is to be used just for peaceful purposes.

While Iran insists it has no desire to get the bomb, Clinton said it appears otherwise.

"The evidence is accumulating that that is exactly what they are trying to do," she said during a question-and-answer session with her audience at the U.S.-Islamic World Forum, attended by officials and scholars from around the world. She also used pointed language in stressing that after months of failed efforts aimed at direct talks with Iran, tougher action is now required.

"It's time for Iran to be held to account for its activities," she said, alluding to penalties designed to squeeze Iran's economy.

In her speech, Clinton said the U.S. and others were working on "new measures" to try to persuade Iran to change its course.

She added: "I would like to figure out a way to handle it in as peaceful an approach as possible, and I certainly welcome any meaningful engagement, but we don't want to be engaging while they are building their bomb."

Pro-Russia Yanukovych named winner of Ukraine vote

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Election officials named Russia-friendly Viktor Yanukovych as the official winner of Ukraine's presidential election Sunday, thwarting Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's hopes of overturning the vote.

Tymoshenko's last recourse is now with the courts, after the Central Election Commission also dismissed her complaints of fraud and misconduct during the Feb. 7 ballot.

Yanukovych won the contest by just 3.5 percentage points—or some 888,000 of the nearly 25.5 million ballots cast, the commission said. It said he won 48.95 percent in an election that saw nearly 70 percent turnout. Tymoshenko garnered 45.47 percent, while another 4.36 percent of voters backed neither candidate.

"The commission names Yanukovych the winner," Chairman Volodymyr Shapoval said in a televised meeting with other commission members, who applauded. "This applause is for the newly elected president."

Yanukovych

The announcement appeared to have been rushed, coming three days before the deadline, even as complaints of fraud poured in from Tymoshenko's staff. One Tymoshenko representative on the commission refused to read out the results from her districts, forcing a commission secretary to read them out in her place.

"There are still complaints that have not been reviewed by the courts. The result has been announced too early," said another Tymoshenko delegate, Volodymyr Pilipenko.

Muslim firebrands challenge Hamas rule in Gaza Strip

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (AP)—They preach global jihad, or holy war, adhere to an ultra-conservative form of Islam and are becoming a headache even for Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza.

Jihadi Salafis, as they are known, have organized into small, shadowy armed groups that have clashed with Hamas forces and fired rockets at Israel in defiance of Hamas' informal truce.

Perhaps even more worrisome for Hamas, they claim a growing appeal among Gazans in the territory's pressure cooker of isolation and poverty, raising fears they could serve as a bridgehead for their ideological twin, al-Qaida, from which they take their call for global holy war.

Hamas insists it dismantled the groups after a mosque shootout last summer that left 26 dead.

But after months of lying low, Jihadi Salafis become active again. Besides resuming rocket fire on Israel in recent weeks, they blew up the car of a Hamas chief outside his southern Gaza home. The chief, who was not in the car, was unhurt, and the group that claimed responsibility said the blast was a warning.

Overdrive

2010 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER XLS

A fair-weather friend

The 2010 Mitsubishi Outlander XLS is an all-wheel-drive crossover utility vehicle but was no match for severe winter weather in upstate New York. The author wasn't impressed with its redesigned grille, either.

THE WASHINGTON POST

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—The drive turned nasty on northbound Interstate 87 in upstate New York, where strong crosswinds, sleet and light snow joined in ridicule of Mitsubishi's advertising claims.

The butts of the joke were me and the 2010 Mitsubishi Outlander XLS crossover utility vehicle, which waved back and forth in the manner of a kite's tail. I hadn't expected that, having fallen for the joy of an inapplicable memory.

I had last driven an Outlander in 2003, the year of its introduction in the United States. I was impressed. It behaved beautifully, had myriad amenities and was put together as well as several of its more expensive rivals.

But the weather was nice that spring week in 2003, driving in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Love was abloom. I applied that emotion in large measure to the Outlander.

Saying yes to the 2010 Outlander was easy when it came around, although it came with winter storm warnings throughout the East Coast.

But I was overconfident in the Outlander XLS crossover's Super All Wheel Control (S-AWC) drive system, supposedly one of the best all-wheel-drive arrangements in the motoring world. Also, I was overconfident in my driving skills.

My friend, Lou Ann Hammond, an automotive writer in Northern California, always advises her colleagues, "Don't drive faster than your angels can fly." She has a corollary: "Using your head is better than losing your butt."

I should have listened. But Mitsubishi's S-AWC drive system was so seductive—especially in print and on roads uncompromised by strong winds and ice. I didn't listen and almost lost my butt—several times.

I'll reflect more on one of those near-misses later. But first, I'll share some information on Mitsubishi's S-AWC drive system:

It is a good all-wheel-drive arrangement, arguably one of the best available. It uses an electronically controlled active front differential in tandem with electronic traction and stability control to shift power left to right, wheel to wheel. As such, S-AWC balances the Outlander's weight shifts, allowing greater acceleration in turning corners and reducing the chances of slipping and toppling.

S-AWC works well. But it can't and won't override the laws of physics. A slippery, icy road is a slippery, icy road. A strong wind is a strong wind. The two together will upset any vehicle, regardless of size, technology, engineering or build quality.

The Outlander XLS got pushed around—badly. Its rear end swung out of sync several times, once strongly aided by the wind, which moved it rightward over an icy patch of I-87 toward the shoulder of the road. Luckily, I chose to hug a right lane where traffic was sparse. But keeping the Outlander upright and moving in a straight line in that windy, wintry mix proved far more difficult than I would have ever imagined.

The experience taught me several lessons. One, too many automotive advertisements don't deal with reality. All of the on-air braggadocio about how well one car or another could run in snow or other bad weather is braggadocio—and dangerous braggadocio at that. Sometimes, as Lou Ann suggests, it's better to keep your engine off, your butt off the road and stay put.

Lesson two: No car company anywhere can make a car, truck, SUV or crossover utility vehicle that can trump Mother Nature at her most brutal. If you doubt that, check the Department of Transportation's Fatality Analysis Reporting System. The charts are filled with her victims. I almost became one of them.

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
Its faulty automotive advertising, especially those ads showing cars and trucks rip-roaring along off-road paths or along severely weather-compromised roads. Disclaimers citing the drivers in those advertisements as "professional" or their various driving environments as "closed" are not enough. I suggest: "Not a single one of us in this business has found a way to override the laws of physics. Attempting to do so can be fatal."

ALSO
The Outlander XLS needs an all-wheel-drive system as good as the S-AWC, which works well in tandem with the electronically controlled front differential, stability and traction control.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
The Outlander is good in all three categories when used as designed.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
A compact, front-engine, car-based entry-level crossover utility vehicle with four side doors and a rear hatch.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
Ugly. The front end, refashioned for 2010, looks like the upside-down face off an Audi A4.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSION
The upscale Outlander XLS gets a standard three-liter, 24-valve, V-6 engine that develops 230 horsepower at 6,250 revolutions per minute and 215 foot-pounds of torque at 3,700 RPM. It is mated to a six-speed automatic transmission that also can be shifted manually.

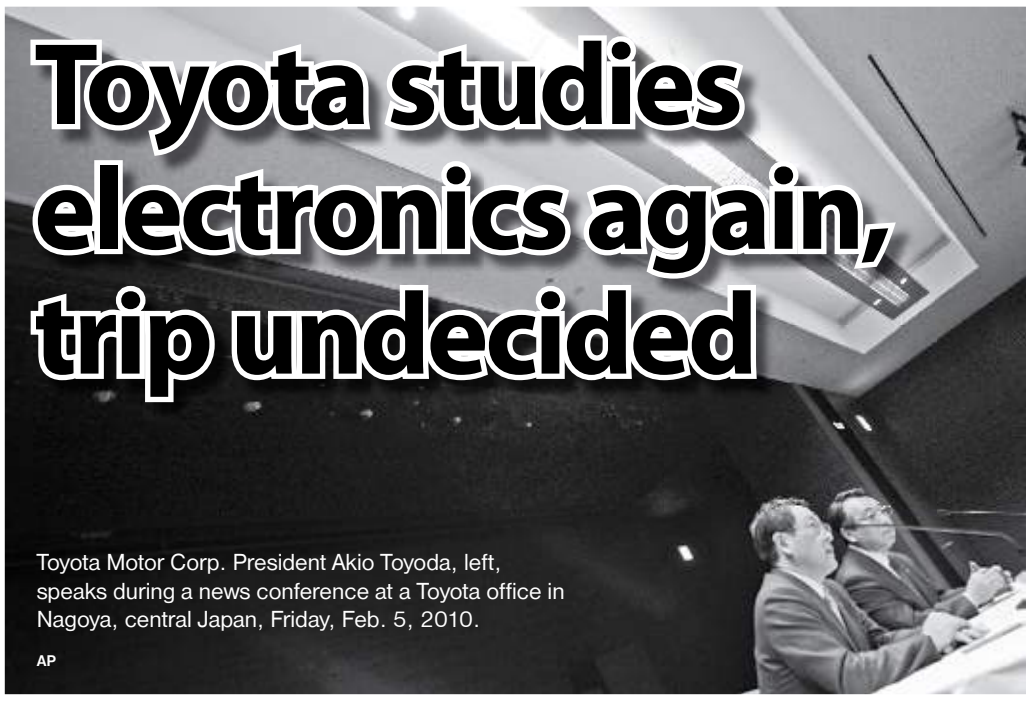
CAPACITIES
The Outlander XLS can seat five or seven people. (Hint: Take the five-passenger arrangement.) Cargo capacity is 73 cubic feet with rear seats down, 14.9 cubic feet with rear seats up. Fuel capacity is 15.8 gallons of recommended regular gasoline.

MILEAGE
Nearly 18 miles per gallon city and 24 mpg highway.

SAFETY
Standard four-wheel disc brakes, anti-lock brake protection, Super All Wheel Control drive system, electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE
The base price for the 2010 Mitsubishi Outlander XLS is $26,390. Dealer's invoice price on that model is $24,878. Price as tested is $31,354, including $4,299 in options (onboard navigation with high-resolution backup camera, high-intensity headlamps, and leather-covered seating surfaces with front-seat heat) and a $765 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $29,286. A $1,000 customer's rebate is available. Mitsubishi is in a must-bargain position. Its U.S. sales were down 49 percent last year.

Toyota studies electronics again, trip undecided



Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda, left, speaks during a news conference at a Toyota office in Nagoya, central Japan, Friday, Feb. 5, 2010.

AP

YURI KAGEYAMA
AP BUSINESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota has still not decided whether its president will appear before the U.S. Congress, the automaker said Monday, but it promised to again look into possible electronic problems with its vehicles.

Toyota Motor Corp. has been criticized as being slow in responding to the unfolding recall crisis, which has ballooned over the past four months to 8.5 million vehicles globally with problems in gas pedals, floor mats and braking.

Calls have been growing for Toyota President Akio Toyoda to answer questions from U.S. lawmakers. Toyoda told reporters last week that he planned to go to the U.S., mainly to talk to American workers and dealers.

Toyota said details for his trip were still being worked out, and it was unclear when a decision could come.

In Washington, Republican Representative Darrell Issa has said Toyoda should testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on Feb. 24. The hearing was scheduled for Feb. 10, but postponed because of a snowstorm.

In a letter to the committee last week, Toyota's attorney Theodore Hester said the company carried out "exhaustive and robust" tests, and does not think there are any electronics problems with its vehicles, but promised to look into it again.

"In the spirit of the recent commitment made by Mr. Toyoda that our company will review all safety issues and potential safety issues with renewed vigor, we will be re-examining these complaints," it said of the sudden acceleration complaints.

In Japan, where brand loyalty to Toyota remains relatively strong, the world's biggest automaker has been trying to send a message of remorse to assuage consumers as well.

On Monday, it rolled out a new Japan compact model called Passo without the usual fanfare for Japanese automakers, such as an unveiling ceremony with entertainment and a news conference by executives.

Toyota suddenly canceled the planned event last week, acknowledging celebration was inappropriate amid the recalls.

Toyota in Tokyo said it had not yet received a notice from U.S. federal authorities about the growing fears the series of recalls may next expand to the Corolla.

"We have yet to be contacted by the NHTSA regarding what has been reported in the press about a power-steering issue in the Corolla," said Toyota spokesman Paul Nolasco. "Should we be contacted about any investigation by NHTSA related to any of our products, we will cooperate fully.

NHTSA has said it is looking into complaints from drivers about difficulty with the steering in 2009 and 2010 Corollas, which say they can wander while driving on highways.

Federal officials routinely look into such complaints, and there is no reason to think a Corolla recall may be imminent. But Toyota's safety woes are drawing intense scrutiny these days.

In addition to the Feb. 24 hearing, the House Oversight Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee has scheduled a Feb. 25 hearing, to hear from Toyota Motor North America chief executive Yoshi Inaba, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator David Strickland.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has scheduled a March 2 hearing.

Life & Style

Preteen samba queen to parade at Rio's Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Thousands of boisterous samba fans came together to watch the first night of Rio's Carnival parades Sunday, and all eyes are on a 7-year-old girl who is the youngest drum corps queen in memory.

Julia Lira, her toothy grin and quick footsteps splashed across media worldwide, will be in the spotlight as her Viradouro samba group struts its stuff just after midnight.

A judge ruled last week that the girl could take on the coveted Carnival role normally reserved for models and actresses. Children's welfare groups have complained, but the overwhelming response in Brazil has been a shrug and acceptance.

"I think its so cool and she obviously can dance," said 15-year-old Thuany Maia at the Sambadrome stadium, her face covered in glitter. She wore a shirt from her favorite samba group, Portela.

While the sweltering heat of Rio's summer has concerned some about Julia's ability to handle the 80-minute parade of nonstop dancing, Maia noted that Brazilians "are used to dancing in this from birth—Brazil is hot!"

The Uniao da Ilha samba group opened the night, introduced by a massive fireworks barrage and the first beats of a 500-strong drum line.

Carnival queens wearing black feather headdresses, the tiniest of sequined outfits clinging to their sculpted bodies, incited the crowd with frenetic samba moves.

But the real draw of the night was tiny Julia.

Julia's father, Marco Lira, who is also the president of the Viradouro samba group, has said repeatedly that he and his wife would be with the girl at all times and they would carefully watch to make sure she doesn't get too tired during the parade.

AP

Julia Lira, 7, front, queen of the drums' section of Viradouro samba school, accompanied by her mother, Monica Lira, back center, walks backstage during carnival celebrations at the Sambodrome in Rio de Janeiro, early Monday, Feb. 15, 2010.

Carlos Nicodemos, director of the Rio de Janeiro state Council for the Defense of Children and Adolescents, two weeks ago asked a judge to keep the girl from dancing, arguing that "what we can't allow is putting a 7-year-old girl in a role that traditionally for Carnival has a very sexual focus."

But Martim de Almeida Sampaio, director of a Sao Paulo lawyers' organization, says the drum corps queen role is no longer reserved for sexy models.

Sampaio noted that singer Elza Soares, whose exact age is a mystery but believed to be 73, will serve as the drum corps "godmother" for the Mocidade samba group, which parades Monday.

"So, we can understand that sensual muses, who have always had prevalence at the front of the samba groups' drum corps, could be losing ground to both youth and experience," he wrote in a column published Saturday in the Folha de S. Paulo newspaper.

The Viradouro samba group has a history of controversial themes. A 2008 float portrayed Hitler amid a sea of naked mannequins representing Holocaust victims. A judge banned that float from being in the parade.

Nicodemos has also suggested that the samba group thrust Julia into her role to get extra attention.

As 12 top-tier Rio samba schools compete fiercely in the parades that are broadcast to millions of viewers nationwide, massive street parties continue to erupt across the city.

Tourism officials say almost 730,000 visitors arrived in Rio this year for the big party—a 5 percent increase over last year despite the world financial crisis.

It's the first Carnival since Rio was named as host to the 2016 Olympics, and officials have been working hard to show that the city, known for the drug-gang violence that pervades its slums, can safely host major events.

There have been few reports of violence during the party so far.

A 37-year-old Dutch tourist was shot by a robber as he tried to defend a Dutch woman he was with, police said. A spokesman for the Silvestre Hospital said Alexander Kors Johannes had been operated on and was in stable condition Sunday.

Brazil's business capital Sao Paulo held its parades the past two nights. Football star Ronaldo took part in the Gavioes da Fiel parade, which celebrated the 100th anniversary of his current team, Corinthians.

Dick Francis, thriller writer and ex-jockey, dies

LONDON (AP)—Dick Francis, the best-selling British thriller writer and former champion jockey, died on Sunday in his home in the Cayman Islands. He was 89.

AP

This is a Sept. 20, 2000 file photo of British author Dick Francis as he poses at a New York hotel.

A successful steeplechase jockey, Francis turned to writing after he retired from racing in 1957. He penned 42 novels, many of which featured racing as a theme. His books were translated into more than 20 languages, and in 2000 Queen Elizabeth II—whose mother was among his many readers—honored Francis by making him a Commander of the British Empire.

His son Felix said he and his brother, Merrick, were "devastated" by their father's death, but "rejoice in having been the sons of such an extraordinary man."

"We share in the joy that he brought to so many over such a long life," Felix said in a statement. Francis' spokeswoman Ruth Cairns said the writer had died from natural causes, but did not elaborate.

During his writing career, Francis won three Edgar Allen Poe awards given by The Mystery Writers of America for his novels "Forfeit" (1968), "Whip Hand" (1979) and "Come to Grief" (1995).

He also was awarded a Cartier Diamond Dagger from the Crime Writers' Association for his outstanding contribution to the genre. The association made him a Grand Master in 1996 for a lifetime's achievement.

Aside from novels, Francis also authored a volume of short stories, as well as a biography of British jockey Lester Piggot.

In recent years Francis wrote novels jointly with son Felix, including "Silks" (2008) and "Even Money" (2009). A new novel by the two, "Crossfire," will be published later this year.

"It is an honor for me to be able to continue his remarkable legacy through the new novels," Felix said in his statement.

Richard Francis was born Oct. 31, 1920, as the younger son of a horse breeder in Tenby, South Wales. During World War II he joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and was stationed in the Egyptian desert before being commissioned as a bomber pilot in 1943, flying Spitfires, Wellingtons and Lancasters.

A few years later he returned to his father's stables and became a steeplechase trainer's assistant. Later, as a professional jockey, he won 345 of the more than 2,300 races he rode in between 1948 and 1957, taking the title of Champion Jockey for the 1953-54 season.

His most famous moment in racing came just a few months before he retired, when, riding for Queen Elizabeth, his horse collapsed inexplicably within sight of certain victory in the 1956 Grand National.

Despite his many successes, he had expressed regret at never winning the prestigious Grand National.

"The first one I rode in I was second, and the last one I rode in I won everywhere except the last 25 yards. I would love the opportunity of having another go, but it's a young man's job," he said once during an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp.

Francis' first book, published in 1957, was his autobiography, titled "The Sport of Queens." His first novel, "Dead Cert," came out in 1962 and was followed by a new title every year since.

He also worked for years as a racing correspondent for Britain's Sunday Express, and retired in the British Caribbean territory of the Cayman Islands.

Francis is survived by his two sons as well as five grandchildren and one great-grandson, Cairns said. A small funeral will be held at Francis' home on Grand Cayman, followed by a memorial service in London, she said, but could not say when they would be held.

The Knack lead singer Doug Fieger dies

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Doug Fieger, leader of the power pop band The Knack who sang on the 1979 hit "My Sharona," died Sunday. He was 57.

AP

In this Aug. 29,1998 file photo showing Doug Fieger, lead singer of the pop group "The Knack," in Detroit.

Fieger, a Detroit-area native, died at his home in Woodland Hills near Los Angeles after battling cancer, according to The Knack's manager, Jake Hooker.

Fieger formed The Knack in Los Angeles 1978, and the group quickly became a staple of Sunset Strip rock clubs. A year later he co-wrote and sang lead vocals on "My Sharona."

Fieger said the song, with its pounding drums and exuberant vocals, was inspired by a girlfriend of four years.

"I had never met a girl like her—ever," he told The Associated Press in a 1994 interview. "She induced madness. She was a very powerful presence. She had an insouciance that wouldn't quit. She was very self-assured. ... She also had an overpowering scent, and it drove me crazy."

"My Sharona," an unapologetically anthemic rock song, emerged during disco's heyday and held the No. 1 spot on the Billboard pop chart for six weeks, becoming an FM radio standard.

It became a pop culture phenomenon, parodied by Weird Al Yankovic and others and sampled by rap group Run DMC.

In 1994, "My Sharona" re-entered the Billboard chart when it was released as a single from the soundtrack of the Ben Stiller film "Reality Bites."

"My Sharona" gained attention again in 2005 when it was reported that George W. Bush had the song on the presidential iPod.

Their songs, about young love and teenage lust, included the hits "Good Girls Don't," "She's So Selfish" and "Frustrated."

The Knack continued to release albums and tour through the mid-2000s but they never replicated the success they enjoyed with their first two albums, "Get the Knack" and "... But the Little Girls Understand."

Fieger battled cancer for six years. In 2006 he underwent surgery to remove two tumors from his brain.

He is survived by a sister, Beth Falkenstein, and a brother, attorney Geoffrey Fieger of Southfield, Mich., who is best known for representing assisted suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian.

A Los Angeles memorial service for friends and family is being planned.

‘Valentine’s Day’ courts $52.4M opening weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The star-studded romance “Valentine’s Day” wooed audiences with a $52.4 million opening weekend, easily grabbing the No. 1 spot over the holiday that shares its name, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“To have a movie titled ‘Valentine’s Day’ on Valentine’s weekend was a no-brainer that absolutely worked,” said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

Directed by Garry Marshall (“Pretty Woman”), “Valentine’s Day” was a celebrity bonanza. The cast includes Ashton Kutcher, Jessica Alba, Jennifer Garner, Anne Hathaway, Julia Roberts, Jamie Foxx, Queen Latifah, Jessica Biel, Shirley MacLaine, Taylor Swift and Taylor Lautner.

“Valentine’s Day” distributor Warner Bros. estimated its love story will be in the $60 million range after Presidents Day on Monday. That would break the Presidents Day weekend record of $52 million set by “Ghost Rider” over the four-day holiday weekend in 2007.

1. “**Valentine’s Day**,” $52.4 million.
2. “**Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief**,” $31.1 million.
3. “**The Wolfman**,” $30.6 million.
4. “**Avatar**,” $22 million.
5. “**Dear John**,” $15.3 million.
6. “**The Tooth Fairy**,” $5.6 million.
7. “**From Paris With Love**,” $4.7 million.
8. “**Edge of Darkness**,” $4.6 million.
9. “**Crazy Heart**,” $4 million.
10. “**When in Rome**,” $3.4 million.

Opening in a tight race for No. 2 were 20th Century Fox’s action fantasy “Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief” with $31.1 million over three days and Universal’s werewolf tale “The Wolfman” with $30.6 million.

Adapted from the opening book in Rick Riordan’s fantasy series, “Percy Jackson” follows the adventures of a teen who learns he’s descended from the ancient Greek gods. The cast includes Uma Thurman, Pierce Brosnan, Catherine Keener and Rosario Dawson.

“The Wolfman” stars Benicio Del Toro, Anthony Hopkins and Emily Blunt in an update of the 1941 Lon Chaney Jr. horror classic about an aristocrat who returns to his ancestral home and is bitten by a werewolf.

Coming in fourth for the weekend was 20th Century Fox’s sci-fi sensation “Avatar” with $22 million, adding to a fortune that already has made it Hollywood’s biggest modern blockbuster. “Avatar” raised its domestic total to $659.6 million and its worldwide haul to $2.35 billion.

The previous weekend’s No. 1 movie, Sony Screen Gems’ romantic drama “Dear John,” fell to fifth place with $15.3 million, lifting its 10-day total to $53.2 million.

AP

In this film publicity image released by Warner Bros., Jessica Alba, right, and Ashton Kutcher are shown in a scene from “Valentine’s Day.”

Like “Dear John,” “Valentine’s Day” drew mainly women, with the female crowd making up 68 percent of the audience, said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros.

Playing in 3,665 theaters, “Valentine’s Day” had a strong average of $14,300 a cinema. That compared with a $9,267 average in 3,356 theaters for “Percy Jackson” and $9,506 in 3,222 cinemas for “The Wolfman.”

Newcomers and holdovers offered something for everyone, with “Valentine’s Day” and “Dear John” catering to the date crowd, “Percy Jackson” filling the family niche and the R-rated “The Wolfman” pulling in horror fans.

The breadth of movies in the market lifted Hollywood to a record Presidents Day weekend, with Hollywood.com estimating the overall three-day haul at $193 million. That’s up 3 percent from the previous record set over Presidents Day weekend last year, when “Friday the 13th” led with a $40.6 million debut.

In limited release, India’s “My Name Is Khan” debuted strongly with $1.9 million in 120 theaters, averaging $15,500 a cinema. Released by Fox Searchlight, “My Name Is Khan” features Shahrukh Khan, a superstar in India’s Bollywood movie industry based in Mumbai.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

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The Lightning Thief

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday & Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Monday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Tues thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Logan Lerman, Pierce Brosnan
Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
Throuble-prone Percy Jackson is having problem in high school–but that’s the least of his challenges. It’s the 21st century, but the gods of Mount Olympus seem to have walked out of the pages of Percy’s Greek mythology texts and into his life. Percy has learned that his real father is Poseidon, god of the sea, which means Percy is a demigod–half human, half god. At the same time, Zeus, the king of all gods, has accused Percy of stealing Zeus’ lightning bolt…the original weapon of mass destruction.

The Wolfman

Friday		4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday & Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:35
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Tues thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Benicio del Toro, Anthony Hopkins
Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
Universal Studios resurrects the classic lycanthrope with this tale of an American who experiences an unsettling transformation after returning to his ancestral home in Victorian-era Great Britain and being attacked by a rampaging werewolf. His brother having recently vanished without a trace, haunted nobleman Lawrence Talbot (Benicio Del Toro) returns to his family estate to investigate. What he discovers upon reuniting with his estranged father (Anthony Hopkins), however, is a destiny far darker than his blackest nightmares.

Valentine’s Day

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:50
Saturday & Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:50
Monday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Tues thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Nobody, Nobody But Juan

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday & Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tues thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Dolphy, Eddie Garcia
Comedy • Rated NR

From Paris With Love

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday & Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Tues thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

John Travolta, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
John Travolta and Jonathan Rhys-Meyers star in the spy thriller From Paris With Love for District B13’s helmer Pierre Morel and EuropaCorp. The Luc Besson/Adi Hasak-penned tale revolves around the entwining paths of an American spy and an embassy worker during a tumultuous time in Paris.

The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday & Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Monday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Tues thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday & Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Monday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Tues thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

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Celine Dion says new movie a ‘VIP’ pass for fans

NEW YORK (AP)—Celine Dion’s new movie, “Celine: Through the Eyes of the World,” does more than highlight her performances during her last world tour; it also allows fans rare glimpses of her offstage life.

The documentary shows Dion as a goofy jokester, a doting mother, a tender wife, a wide-eyed tourist, a devoted daughter and more. The cameras tag along for intimate moments the superstar is happy to share with fans.

“I want to be kind of accessible. I don’t want to be doing this show business and be different,” said Dion, who took off a year after the tour, in a recent interview.

“What we do, it’s extravagant, it’s extraordinary. ... I don’t call it a normal life but we are normal people. For people to see we live as normal as possible ... makes my singing even more true and it gives me an extra bond with my fans.”

The movie is being released next week for a limited engagement in theaters.

Dion is working on new albums in English and French, and returns next year to Las Vegas for a three-year residency at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace.

AP: Why did you decide to take fans behind the scenes instead of doing a straight concert film?

Dion: First of all, it was not supposed to be shown. We wanted to make the best out of a privilege of touring the world; having my mother, who is 82 years old and my son, who is 7 years old, and to make it really like a photo album, to bring back home memories. ... It was for a souvenir, really. But then it turned out to be ... quite exquisite.

AP

In this Sept. 15, 2008 file photo, Canadian singer Celine Dion performs at Madison Square Garden in New York.

AP: You left your previous residency in Vegas after five years, needing a break. Then you went on tour. What made you go back to Vegas?

Dion: They’ve been calling us to go back a lot, and don’t forget that I still love what I do a lot. I wonder how can I surpass myself and do something different again. Well, we still have a lot of ideas coming.

AP: You have spoken openly about your struggle to have another child. Do you think speaking out makes you a voice for other women with similar issues?

Dion: In a way, yes, I hope so. ... For me, through my songs, through my life, through my battles, through my hopes, it’s a way for me to sing my songs better, to share my life, to help some people. ... If I help people through my voice, through my interviews, through what I go through, I do not want to change that at all. ... I think it’s making a difference.

AP: You were part of the “We Are the World” sequel. What was that like?

Dion: Well for me, it was extraordinary. I don’t live in show business, so for me when I see artists, I get very excited because I admire them. I don’t follow what’s out there. ... So when I see the Jonas brothers and Miley Cyrus and Josh Groban and Barbra Streisand, ... I’m very impressed. I admired their careers and I admire what they do and I become a fan. ... It was like, does it get any better than that? Quincy Jones, Lionel Richie, everybody (laughs). I was so impressed! And nobody knew which part they were going to do.

AP: And what part did you do?

Dion: When I got there, I was very thrilled, because I didn’t know what I was going to do and it didn’t matter to me, and then they said, “Can you do the Cyndi Lauper version?” (starts singing the part). It’s one of the greatest parts of the song. I was like, “All right!” I was very privileged.

AP: You’ve been performing for more than 25 years. How do you keep your voice at its peak?

Dion: At 42, my voice has changed—you have to know that it will change. ... Your voice will sound different but it’s all for the best. ... You have to move on with it. ... When I served the music at 15, it was with the knowledge at the time. ... But I think I serve the music better at 42 because I know different and I’m not trying to fight it. I just go with the flow and I’m enjoying myself even more today.

Madonna's charity head blasts land dispute reports

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

The director of Madonna's Raising Malawi foundation is denying that there is a land dispute over the charity's planned $15 million girls academy, calling reports that some villagers feel the project is displacing them "erroneous."

The Associated Press has reported that the village headman took the villagers' complaints to the local government, and that local officials have visited the area several times.

However, Phillip Van den Bosche, who runs the foundation, said late Saturday that media reports of friction were "not factual."

He also said that the head of the village "made a very long speech about how grateful he was for this project" at a ceremony for the school.

Raising Malawi is building the school for girls on approximately a 117-acre plot of government land near the capital, Lilongwe. The land had been used by villagers for farming when it was not utilized by the government, but Malawi reclaimed the land when the educational project emerged.

It worked out a deal in which about 200 villagers would be paid 16 million kwacha (about $115,000) in total by Raising Malawi to compensate them for their houses—mostly mud-and-thatch structures—and improvements such as gardens and trees.

Van Den Bosche said the deal—which was worked out by the government but paid for by Raising Malawi—was more than generous.

"If you visited the land prior to this allocation, you would have found that there were at the most one or two small huts" on the land, he said. "The people who were on the land now have an equivalent plot of agricultural land where they can continue their farming ... The community will be enhanced by this."

AP

Madonna arrives to meet with Sao Paulo's Governor Jose Serra in Sao Paulo, Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2010.

Last week, government officials met with villagers. One villager, Amos Mkuyu said at the meeting: "My sisters and I inherited this land from our parents whose parents have been here for over a hundred years. How can I get only 200,000 kwacha?"

He received the 200,000 kwacha, or about $1,500, from Raising Malawi for mango trees and three homes on a three-hectare plot. He seems to think the money was also for the land, but the government says the villagers did not have tenure and so are not owed anything for the land. Instead, they have been offered other land.

On Sunday, Van Den Bosche denied that representatives from Raising Malawi had met recently with any villagers about the land issue and believes that others, such as the media and perhaps lawyers, have tried to inflame the issue.

"It was a done deal but of course whenever Madonna's name is involved, opportunism is involved," he said.

"The thought that Madonna would be going on this land to take something away or to hurt people or to bulldoze people out of their homes is ridiculous," he added. "The school is built to build cultural pride, not to destroy it."

Madonna has pumped millions into this impoverished southern African country and become very active in charitable efforts; she has also adopted two children from Malawi.

But while Raising Malawi was co-founded by Madonna, Van Den Bosche said the idea that it was Madonna's school was not accurate.

"Madonna is a donor to this project she's just one of many donors to it, and she has taken the creation of the girls academy on as a pet project of hers, it's something she feels very connected to," he said. "(But) it's not really her school, it's a collaboration."

Van Den Bosche took pains to note that the government has been actively involved in creating the girls school, and that it will be run by Malawians for Malawi's most destitute children. He said 80 percent of girls who finish primary school are not able to go to secondary school, something Raising Malawi wants to change.

The school is targeted to open in 2012, and he hopes it will become a model to educate girls not only in Malawi but in other parts of Africa and the rest of the world where girls receive inferior education.

"We believe it's a beautiful project and we have the support of the village," Van Den Bosche said.

Weisz and Law win London stage awards' acting prizes

LONDON (AP)—Jude Law and Rachel Weisz got the thumbs up from London theatergoers Sunday, winning top acting honors at the city's only stage awards decided by the public.

Law's "Hamlet" won him the best actor prize at the Whatsonstage awards, run by a major theater Web site. Weisz was named best actress for playing faded southern belle Blanche Dubois in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

A sellout production of "Waiting for Godot" starring theatrical knights—and "X-Men" co-stars—Ian McKellen and Patrick Stewart was voted theater event of the year.

"For me it was not just the theater event of the year. It was the event of a lifetime," said Stewart, who returned to the stage several years ago after a TV and movie career that included the role of Capt. Jean-Luc Picard in "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

Stewart, who also won a supporting actor prize for playing Claudius in "Hamlet" for the Royal Shakespeare Company, said he hoped to tackle other great Shakespearean roles such as the tragic title character in "King Lear."

Rowan Atkinson was named best actor in a musical for playing Fagin in "Oliver!" which also was voted best musical revival. The best actress in a musical prize went to Patina Miller for singing-nun show "Sister Act."

Camp Aussie extravaganza "Priscilla Queen of the Desert" was named best new musical.

Ben Stiller competes in Berlin with "Greenberg"

AP

U.S. actor Ben Stiller poses at the photo call of the film 'Greenberg' at the International Film Festival Berlinale in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

BERLIN (AP)—Ben Stiller stars as a man seeking a way out of a midlife crisis in director Noah Baumbach's "Greenberg," premiering at the Berlin film festival.

Stiller plays a fortysomething man housesitting his brother's Hollywood home and struggling to reconnect with old friends. He is drawn into a relationship with his brother's personal assistant, played by Greta Gerwig.

The 44-year-old Stiller said ahead of the movie's premiere Sunday that his character "for a long time has felt like he had it all ahead of him and is really coming up against the fact that he doesn't."

He added: "I think that's just a part of being this age."

Baumbach wrote and directed 2005's "The Squid and the Whale." The new film is one of 20 in the Berlin festival's main competition.

Obesity is more a problem of quality than quantity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am appalled and saddened when I go out to a restaurant and see the number of adults who force their children to eat. There are so many overweight people in the United States, why try to make a child finish a meal? They will eat when they are hungry; just don't give them anything between meals.

It hurts me to see parents say, "We can't leave until you clean your plate"—like they are bad children for not eating. Please tell me if I'm off base on this issue.

MILWAUKEE GRANDMA

DEAR GRANDMA: Perhaps you shouldn't judge so quickly. The problem of obesity in this country has less to do with parents force-feeding their children than with children and adults who are consuming fattening foods in excessive portions and not burning off the calories. It may be that the children you are seeing want to consume only sweet, sugary foods—and the parents are simply trying to get them to eat a balanced meal.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A member of our family is very difficult to get along with and has a low boiling point. We never know what is going to trigger the anger, nor how long it will last. This person also likes to play the victim. Everything gets blown out of proportion and 99 percent of the time is unmerited. To us, this behavior is rude, mean and cruel. Some people avoid personal contact because they are tired of having their feelings hurt.

We know we can't change this person, but is this a form of mental abuse? Should we continue to ignore the punishment we are getting and continue to be kind and thoughtful and hope the mood will pass?

TIRED OF THE TIRADES

DEAR TIRED: The tirades could be considered a form of mental abuse, but they could also be signs of substance abuse, a mental illness or a personality disorder. Your relative's behavior should not be ignored. In fact, I recommend you consult a licensed mental health professional to help you better understand what's going on and how to effectively deal with it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My parents will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and my mother's 70th birthday in March. They have invited my siblings and me, plus our spouses and grandchildren for a Caribbean cruise. The celebration was planned around a time when most of us could take time off work and school. Unfortunately, the event coincides with my stepdaughter's due date. Her mother (my wife) has already said she will stay behind for the birth.

The problem is, my stepdaughter has said that anyone who misses the birth of her baby will not be allowed to have a relationship with her or her child. How do I make this right for my parents and my stepdaughter?

TROUBLED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR TROUBLED: You can't. It will be up to your wife to make her daughter understand that the world doesn't revolve around her, and that her attempt to blackmail you into being there for the birth of the baby will not punish you or your family, but rather isolate herself and the child. It's a mistake she'll regret in the future.

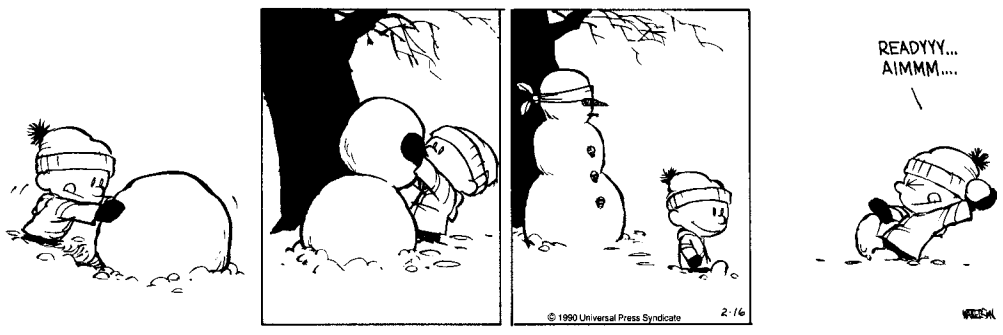
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

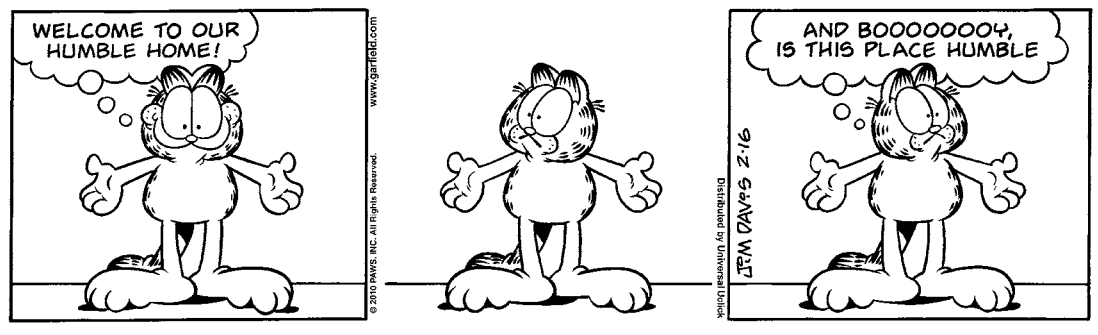
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis


WELCOME TO OUR HUMBLE HOME!
AND BOOOOOOOY, IS THIS PLACE HUMBLE
JIM DAVIS 2-16
www.garfield.com
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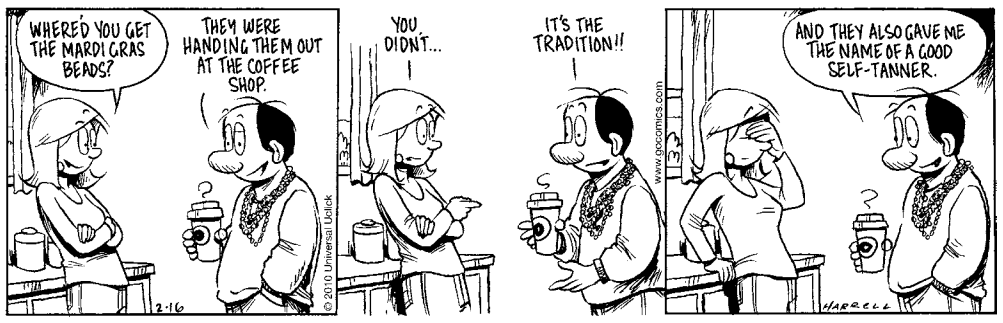
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHERE'D YOU GET THE MARDI GRAS BEADS?
THEY WERE HANDING THEM OUT AT THE COFFEE SHOP.
YOU DIDN'T...
IT'S THE TRADITION!!
AND THEY ALSO GAVE ME THE NAME OF A GOOD SELF-TANNER.
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www.gocomics.com
HARGREAVE
2-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

COLD BEER! COLD BEER, HERE!!
I'LL TAKE ANOTHER ONE.
Y'KNOW, IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU I'D NEVER SURVIVE THE OFFSEASON.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Office part-timer
5 Bedouin
9 Sheep's call
12 Operatic solo
13 Pop
14 "Well, — be!"
15 Overpublicizes
17 Prune
18 Tested the polygraph
19 Department store stats
21 Libreville's country
24 Easter flower
25 Addict
26 Goalpost part
30 Have a bug
31 Jack
32 Mentalist Geller
33 Wild ducks
35 Tend texts
36 Tug
37 Punch-bowl accessory
38 Rise
40 Paraphernalia
42 Common Mkt.
43 India's movie industry
48 Cheerleader's cry
49 War god
50 Busy with and enjoying
51 Milwaukee product
52 Kelly or Hackman
53 Obtains

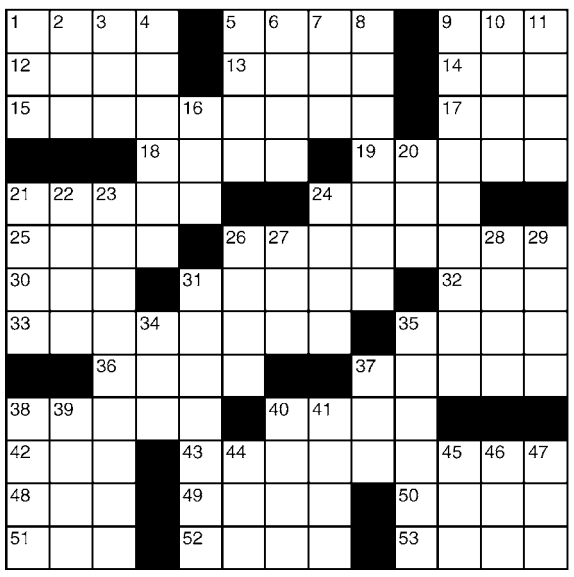
DOWN

1 Bill
2 Historic time
3 Wire measure
4 Wan quality
5 Arthur of tennis
6 Crucifix
7 Big bother
8 String musician
9 Melville hero
10 Lotion additive
11 Swiss range
16 Yang counterpart
20 Capp and Capone
21 Trans-Pacific stopping point
22 Largest of the seven
23 Complain
24 Privation
26 Bottle stopper
27 Disencumber
28 Seed coat
29 Ceremony
31 Purse
34 PC linkup system
35 Nocturnal insect
37 Minstrel's song
38 Antitoxins
39 Blue shade
40 Secluded valley
41 Otherwise
44 Raw rock
45 Indivisible
46 Mel of baseball lore
47 Two, in Tijuana

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	J	A	■	L	I	T	■	B	A	L	D
E	N	C	R	O	A	C	H	■	A	G	U	E
W	A	T	T	H	O	U	R	■	D	I	R	E
■	■	■	E	N	S	■	O	P	E	N	E	D
M	A	C	R	O	■	T	W	I	G	■	■	■
I	V	E	Y	■	T	H	O	U	G	H	T	■
N	O	D	■	T	O	R	U	S	■	O	O	H
■	W	I	T	H	O	U	T	■	P	O	R	E
■	■	■	H	E	L	M	■	K	I	T	E	S
B	A	B	I	E	S	■	S	A	L	■	■	■
O	D	O	R	■	H	O	T	H	O	U	S	E
M	A	L	T	■	E	V	E	N	T	F	U	L
B	R	A	Y	■	D	A	M	■	S	O	N	S

Yesterday's answer 2-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steffani Brass, 18; John McEnroe, 51; Ice-T, 52; Levar Burton, 53

Happy Birthday: The more you speak about your plans, the better the response you will receive. This is a year to open up and let your thoughts be known so you can achieve the success you are looking for. Don't let your uncertainty or the doubts of someone you are close to stand in the way of your progress. Your numbers are 6, 13, 26, 28, 33, 42, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Professional troubles will lead to greater problems with colleagues, peers or institutions you deal with. Stay centered and in control. Take positive action rather than yielding to frustration. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Not everyone will agree with your plans but, if you honestly are trying to help others, you will gain support. Your tendency to change your mind will leave you open to criticism. Your leadership qualities will make a lasting impression. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't allow anyone to take advantage of your enthusiasm or your skills. Only offer the time, talent and cash you feel comfortable contributing. If someone asks for more, be very clear what you expect in return. A relationship is likely to undergo changes. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Travel or reconnect with an old friend. Engage in any opportunity to learn something new that you may be able to use to earn more money. A move or making alterations to your home will help to stabilize your position. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let a few minor changes throw your schedule and plans for a loop. Proactive, positive action will help you stay on track. Take the path that suits your needs, not someone else's. Speak your mind but with diplomacy. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Unexpected change where a settlement, financial deal or legal contract is concerned is apparent. You will have to be open-minded if you are going to move forward with your current plans. Don't let uncertainty be your downfall. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Someone may try to take advantage of your skills if you are too easygoing or willing to lend a hand. If you don't say no, you will not have time to finish your own pursuits. Make positive changes at home and alleviate pressure. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): It will take determination and will-power to outmaneuver someone who is working against you. Now is not the time to let others see your weaknesses. Put time aside for love and romance late in the day. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't count on anything or anyone. Just when you think you have everything all worked out, you will be thrown a curve ball that will send you spinning. Stay calm, watch what everyone else is doing and think before you speak. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You are usually tied to routine but, by shaking things up a little, you can ensure that you stay in control. An unusual connection to your past will renew some of your thoughts regarding the goals you want to achieve this year. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Let the past go so that you can move forward. You are only fooling yourself if you continue to spin your wheels and do nothing that encourages better prospects in the future. Don't get angry with the people trying to help you. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A creative idea you put to rest should be reinstated. Approach someone with experience and knowledge to pull off the type of engaging project you want to pursue. If your intentions are honorable, you can start anew. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You show your feelings openly and are not afraid to change your mind or try something new. You are outspoken, aggressive and determined.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5	2	6			9	7	
3	1			4			6	8
			4		3			7
		3		7		4		
1			8		9			
7	8			5			9	6
	6	4			2	1	5	

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	5	7	4	3	2	9	8
2	4	8	9	6	5	7	3	1
3	9	7	8	2	1	5	6	4
5	7	9	4	3	6	1	8	2
1	8	6	2	7	9	4	5	3
4	2	3	1	5	8	9	7	6
8	6	1	5	9	4	3	2	7
9	3	2	6	1	7	8	4	5
7	5	4	3	8	2	6	1	9

Difficulty Level ★ 2/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MASSACHUSETTS SNOWSTORMS **Solution: 7 letters**

P	D	G	C	C	O	V	A	H	E	A	V	Y	C	N
W	R	A	N	L	O	N	A	T	U	R	E	I	A	O
E	A	E	D	I	O	L	Y	P	D	I	F	G	N	I
A	Z	R	C	V	L	S	D	E	A	F	G	N	C	T
T	Z	M	N	I	E	E	U	D	A	O	D	I	E	A
H	I	S	O	I	P	N	V	R	B	R	R	Z	L	L
E	L	E	L	I	N	I	T	O	E	C	I	E	L	U
R	B	H	Z	E	S	G	T	U	H	S	F	E	A	M
T	G	C	E	O	E	T	S	A	R	S	T	R	T	U
I	G	N	R	P	K	T	O	L	T	E	W	F	I	C
D	D	I	O	N	A	S	S	U	I	I	Ⓖ	O	O	C
E	E	W	A	C	L	O	C	W	N	C	O	Ⓤ	N	A
S	E	L	K	I	F	K	A	D	O	N	K	N	Ⓢ	S
R	P	S	G	T	D	R	I	V	E	L	I	G	H	Ⓣ
W	H	I	T	E	M	E	R	T	X	E	P	I	L	S

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Accumulation, Adventure, Advisories, Blizzard, Cancellations, Chaos, Closures, Cold, Deep, Depth, Drift, Drive, Extreme, Flakes, Freezing, Gust, Havoc, Heavy, Inches, Light, Moist, Nature, Plan, Plow, Power, Precipitation, Shoveling, Sleet, Slick, Slip, Snow, Soft, Stacks, Stuck, Tides, Toboggan, Traffic, Warm, Warnings, Weather, White, Wind, Year, Zero

Yesterday's Answer: Go-Go Dancer

Treasury 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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Opening Date:	January 6, 2010	Closing Date:	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-006	Deputy Director for Water & Wastewater	One (1)	Negotiable; Un-graded	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan

Opening Date:	February 9, 2010	Closing Date:	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-015	Technical Manager for Oil (TMO)	One (1)	$79,616 - $88,462; Un-graded	Two-year	Administration, Saipan

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in this section

Record crowd sees East edge West in All-Star game

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—To Dwyane Wade, it felt more like a stage than a court.

More than 108,000 fans jammed Cowboys Stadium to the top, the largest crowd ever to watch a basketball game.

It was time for something special.

Wade's done that before—right here in North Texas.

Wade had 28 points and won MVP honors, and the Eastern Conference edged the West 141-139 on Sunday night in the NBA All-Star game.

"To be able to perform in front of a crowd like that, I know that. I know I can do it, I've done it before," Wade said. "So just to be able to put on a show like that and to get the win, and to make key plays down the stretch was what I like."

The crowd of 108,713, packed with the usual celebrities and athletes the NBA All-Star game always attracts, watched Dallas native Chris Bosh make the winning free throws with 5 seconds left. The West had a chance to win it, but Carmelo Anthony's 3-point attempt came up short.

"To be in front of 108,000 fans, that was actually what it was, that was not a false number. You could look up in the stands, and there was not a seat open," LeBron James said. "To be part of history is something that you always wish and dream for."

The largest cheer of the night came earlier, when Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and Cowboys owner Jerry Jones came onto the court to announce the record crowd, which was also the largest in the $1.2 billion building's short history.

They were booing at the end when Wade went to the line and made two free throws with 12.7 seconds left. Dirk Nowitzki of the hometown Mavericks tied it with two of his own 5 seconds before Bosh put the East on top for the final time.

Wade, the MVP of the 2006 NBA finals when Miami won the title in Dallas, added 11 assists and six rebounds. James had 25 points, and Bosh had 23 points and 10 rebounds.

"I've had a little luck in Dallas. Of course, 2006 is very, very memorable, something I dreamed of doing for a long time, winning the NBA championship and I was lucky enough and blessed enough to win the MVP there," Wade said. "To come and do it again is special."

Anthony scored 27 points, and Nowitzki—who Kobe Bryant had predicted would win MVP honors—had 22.

But just like four years ago, Wade found a way to top Nowitzki's best. The Miami star was 12 of 16 from the field and also had five steals.

The star in this one, though, was the building. The NBA brought its midseason showcase to a football stadium, and the arrangement worked perfectly. The league was predicting about 90,000 but ended up blowing past Jones' and Cuban's hopes to reach 100,000.

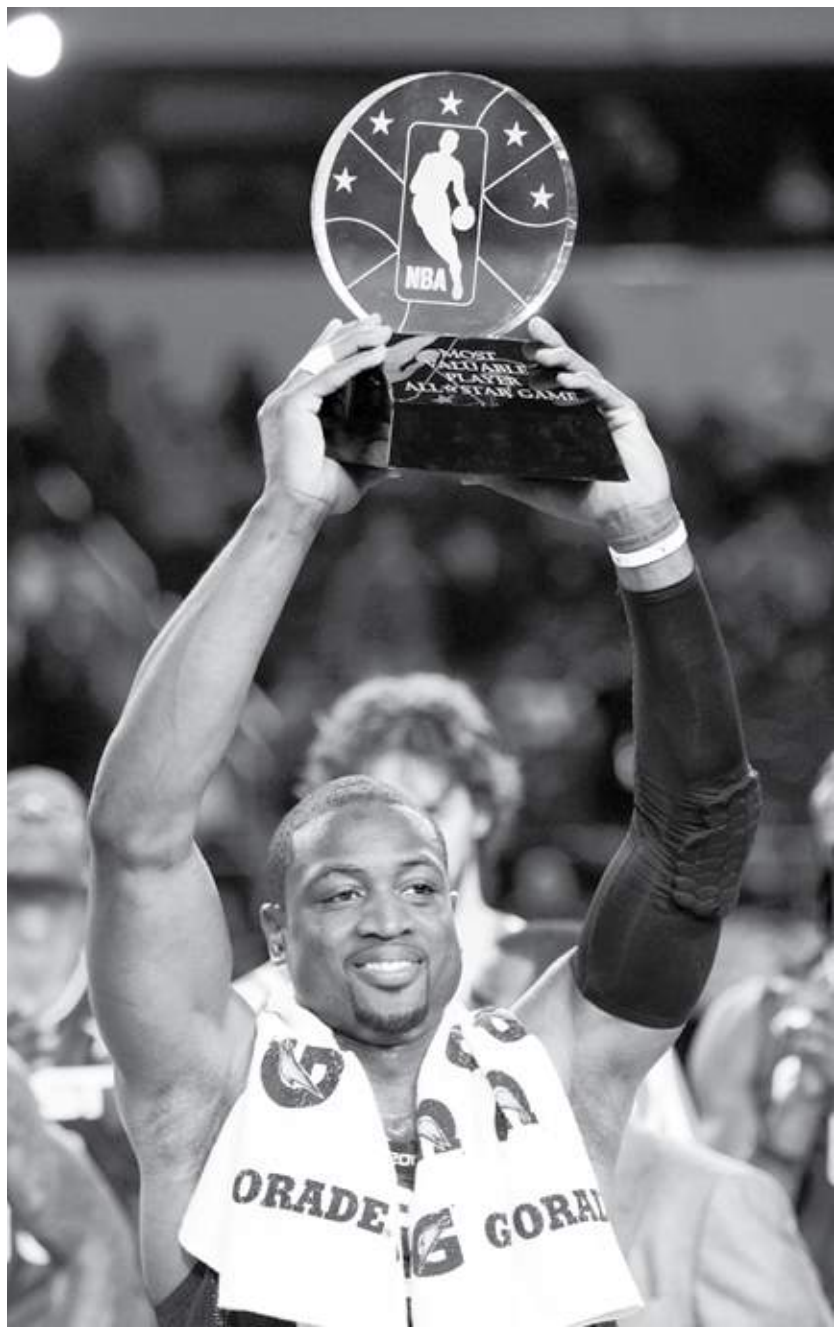
It easily shattered the previous record for the largest crowd to watch a basketball game of 78,129, set for a college matchup between Kentucky and Michigan State at Detroit's Ford Field on Dec. 13, 2003.

"It was unbelievable for us to be a part of a moment like this. I don't think we will ever be part of another game or situation like this, for both teams," Anthony said. "The lead got out of hand early in the third quarter, but we fought back and got the fans back into the game."

The thrilling finish more than salvaged an occasionally rough All-Star weekend for the league. Injuries knocked out fan favorites such as Bryant and Chris Paul. Commissioner David Stern and players association executive director Billy Hunter indicated the sides are far apart on a new labor agreement that would prevent a work stoppage in the summer of 2011, and the slam dunk contest wasn't pretty even with the presence of the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders.

But the highlight all along was going to be the stadium, and it didn't disappoint.

Players came out to the court—which appeared much smaller than 94 feet from the highest levels of the venue—more than an hour before the game to check out the scene and the challenges it could create. Having hundreds of feet behind the baskets had some All-Stars wondering if their depth perception could be thrown off while shooting.



AP

East All-Star Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat holds the MVP trophy after the East beat the West 141-139 in the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010, at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Not to worry. Everyone was sharp early, with even Dwight Howard making a 3-pointer, before staring at his palm and drawing a laugh from Orlando assistant Patrick Ewing.

"It was unbelievable. Usually in All-Star games, not everybody is going out to shoot and warm up, but if you looked an hour before the game, I think both teams, all players were almost out there shooting, because it's so different in a huge dome with the background," Nowitzki said. "And I thought for actually the size of this arena, both teams were shooting pretty well."

There's probably never been a better time to be on the sideline. The seats on the benches were leather theater seats with arm rests and drink holders. James seemed to particularly enjoy his, reclining his back and putting his feet up on the court above him while resting to start the second quarter.

Naturally, there was a football element. Cowboys cheerleaders were lined up as the players came onto the court for pregame warmups, and former Dallas receiver Terrell Owens was in the crowd.

James and Wade have talked about playing together when both become free agents this summer, and what a partnership it would be.

Each had 10 points in the third quarter and had a hand in all the scoring in a 10-3 East burst that turned a nine-point lead into a 90-74 lead with 8:21 remaining in the period. The East lead was nine after three, and it was still there after they answered a West surge with one of their own, but Chauncey Billups knotted it at 137 with a jumper with 1:05 to play.

There was no scoring until Wade forced a turnover and was fouled with 12.7 seconds left. Booed loudly—possibly by many of the same fans who remember him leading Miami back from a 2-0 deficit to win the 2006 finals, he sank both free throws for a two-point lead.

Nowitzki was fouled five seconds later by Howard, and he delighted the home crowd by knocking down both, but Bosh quickly untied it again.

Howard scored 17 points for the East, which is back on top after losing two of the last three.

Billups had 17 points, Kevin Durant scored 15 in his All-Star debut and Deron Williams, who played his high school ball near Dallas, finished with 14. Durant and Williams were two of the nine first-time All-Stars.

Nowitzki came onto the court to thank the fans before the game, finishing his remarks by saying, "I want to say everything is bigger in Texas," and the crowd sure proved it.

He then made long jumpers on the West's first two possessions to get his team off to a quick start, but the East surged ahead and led 37-34 after one quarter.

The East made 19 of 29 shots in the second quarter and took a 76-69 lead into halftime, where USA Basketball players were honored after performances by Shakira and Alicia Keys.

Dustin Johnson survives to win at Pebble Beach

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Dustin Johnson stood on the 18th tee as powerful waves crashed along the sea wall along the left side of the famous 18th hole at Pebble Beach. Then he turned to face what he considers the toughest drive on the golf course.

"It's such a gorgeous hole," Johnson said. "If you miss it a little left, it's not so pretty."

What followed was a tee shot as majestic as the scenery around him.

Johnson's drive was long and pure, setting up a simple birdie from the greenside bunker Sunday. It gave him a one-shot victory over David Duval and J.B. Holmes, making him the first player in 20 years to win back-to-back in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Johnson closed with a 2-over 74, the highest final round by a Pebble Beach champion since Johnny Miller (74) in 1994. The 25-year-old Johnson is the first player since Tiger Woods to go straight from college and win in each of his first three years on the PGA Tour.

Johnson hit a 3-iron into the front right bunker, the best place to miss, and blasted out to 3 feet. He lightly pumped his fist when he made the putt, a mixture of celebration and relief from a long day in which four players had a share of the lead at some point.

"All you can ask for is a chance to win on the last hole," Johnson said.

Paul Goydos didn't get that opportunity. Leading by one shot with five holes to play, Goydos hit a chip that ran off the other side of the treacherous 14th green, another chip that came back down the slope toward his feet and three-putted for a quadruple-bogey 9.

He wound up with a 78 and tied for fifth.

Two other players—Bryce Molder and Alex Prugh—also made a 9 on the par-5 14th hole, the kind of carnage typically seen at the U.S. Open, which will be at Pebble in four months.

"It wasn't like I didn't try on all nine shots," Goydos said. "The ninth one I really wasn't all that excited about. Just everything I did on that hole didn't work out."

Johnson's two victories were nothing alike.

He essentially won last year when he walked off Spyglass Hill on a Saturday with a four-shot lead. Johnson was declared the winner two days later when the tournament was shortened to 54 holes because of rain.

He had to work a lot longer—and harder—this time around.

Duval put together his best four rounds in years, closing with a 3-under 69 that he didn't think would be enough until Johnson went over the green and made a pair of bogeys on the back nine.

Johnson's power, and the shot he struck on the 18th, made all the difference.

Duval doesn't have the length to get home in two at Pebble's closing hole, not into the ocean breeze on soft fairways, so he played smartly to the right. His wedge came up just enough short to catch the slope and roll 30 feet away.

"I feel like I did most of the things I wanted to do today," Duval said.

Holmes has the length, but he didn't have the direction on the 18th. Playing in the group ahead of Johnson, he hit into the right rough and had to lay up, then missed a birdie putt just outside 12 feet.

"Would have liked it to end a little better for me, but I had a good week," Holmes said after a 71. "Had my chances."

Johnson made the most of his.

"The tee shot he hit on 18 was all world," Goydos said. "I mean, that's never straight and narrow where he's hitting the ball, consider he has to make 4 to win the golf tournament. Pretty impressive."

Johnson became the first player since Davis Love III in 2003 to win Pebble Beach with a birdie on the 72nd hole from the final group. He finished at 16-under 270 and moved to No. 2 in the Ryder Cup standings.

His future looks as bright as the sunshine that graced the Monterey Peninsula for so much of the week. Not since Mark O'Meara in 1990 has someone won back-to-back at Pebble Beach, and this can only help Johnson with the U.S. Open coming to Pebble this summer. The other back-to-back winners are all in the Hall of Fame—Sam Snead, Cary Middlecoff, Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

"That's not a bad list," Johnson said. "Anytime you're on a list with those guys, you're doing all right."

Johnson joins Sean O'Hair as the only Americans in the their 20s with three PGA Tour victories.

Bilodeau brings home the gold to Canada

WEST VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)—Instead of talking about oh-fers, Canada can start the real Olympic celebration.

The host country is on the board with its first gold medal, thanks to the upset pulled off by Alexandre Bilodeau, who won the men's moguls Sunday night to finally become the first Canadian to win an Olympic title inside his own country's borders.

Skis skidding across the slippery slush, head moving in rhythm with the bumps, Bilodeau showed all the speed, daring and borderline recklessness a skier must show to make history.

He tore down the course in 23.17 seconds and posted a score of 26.75. That was .17 points better than defending champion Dale Begg-Smith, a Vancouver native who now competes for Australia.

"I don't think I realize what's actually going on today and what's happening to me right now," Bilodeau said.

Bryon Wilson of the United States finished third. Bilodeau nailed his winning run after Wilson. When the next and final skier, Guilbaut Colas of France, finished and had his sixth-place score flashed on the board, the Canadian crowd went crazy.

It has been nearly 34 years since the cauldron was first lit for the Summer Games in Montreal, and 22 since the last Canadian games in Calgary.

Now, the games are in Vancouver. And the land of the Maple Leaf has its moment.

It's a moment that will be played and replayed for the next two weeks and beyond—one to be celebrated again come Monday, when Bilodeau receives that Olympic gold in a ceremony down in Vancouver and that song - yes, 'O Canada,' will be piped into the medals plaza for everyone to hear.

The victory came about 24 hours later than many people thought it might - on the very same moguls course where favorite Jenn Heil, a Canadian who trains daily with Bilodeau, settled for silver. That disappointment is history, and suddenly, Canada looks like the threat it hoped it would be at these Olympics.

"It's so big for Canada," said Bilodeau's coach, Dominick Gauthier. "Since the beginning and for Jenn yesterday, these games are all about Canada. Now the first gold is won. The media won't talk about it anymore. It's done."

Or maybe only starting.

The country started a program called "Own the Podium," and poured $110 million into it, with the goal of winning the medal count here at the Vancouver Games. Canada's first gold brings the medal count up to three—still only half of what the leader, the United States, has won. But there's a lot of time left.

On a night made for raucous celebration—red mittens thumping, little boys in the stands hugging their moms, even an Olympic volunteer standing on the course, post-race, waving a Canadian flag - there was a poignant scene, as well: The one of Bilodeau's brother, Frederic, who suffers from cerebral palsy, cheering in a wheelchair near the bottom of the course behind the fence.

Bilodeau said his brother helped him keep things in perspective all these years, during which he has won a world championship, but was also stung by an 11th-place finish in Turin.

"Even if it's raining, I'll take it, I'll go train," Bilodeau said. "He doesn't have that chance, and he's having a smile every morning he wakes up."

Bilodeau wasn't leaving anything on the course for this one.

He crashed into the fence at the bottom, after he sped through the final bumps to finish a run that teetered precariously between control and chaos. He stayed up when it counted, though, and in the end, it was his risk-taking that made a difference.

He and Wilson were the only two men in the finals who dared try a back flip with two twists on the top jump. Begg-Smith has been dominating for years with less-difficult jumps; though he executed them cleanly, he lost because he was more than a half-second slower.

As usual, Begg-Smith kept a mysterious air about him afterward.

His Aussie handlers called the media in early so their star could answer questions quickly, and alone, on the podium. But Begg-Smith stood in the back corner, fiddling with his cell phone, waiting for members of the Aussie media—the only ones he'll talk to—to get to the tent.

An odd scene for the man who disowned his home country and moved to Australia because it fit in better with his business schedule. He reportedly owns an internet company and is a multimillionaire, which allows him to ski on the side.

He was gracious in answering the few questions he fielded.

"I think it was great that Canada won gold and the crowd was really happy with it and everybody went crazy," Begg-Smith said. "We're out there to put on a show. Obviously everybody enjoyed what they saw and were really happy with the outcome of it."

Begg-Smith's story turned out to be secondary—as was the nice one Wilson has to tell.

He wasn't even a member of America's "A" team to start this season but earned a start in two World Cup events when a teammate got hurt and finished second in both.

That gave him an Olympic spot, and he took advantage by winning bronze.

"A year ago, I would've been just happy to make the Olympics, that was my first goal," Wilson said. "When I got down to the bottom, I saw the score, I hoped it would hold out and it did. And it was pretty amazing."

Bilodeau pretty much had a stranglehold on amazing on this night, though, one in which Canadian fans came to Cypress expecting an erstwhile countryman to win and ended up seeing the real thing.

A student of the Olympics, Bilodeau knows sometimes all it takes is one nice surprise to get the ball rolling.

"There are so many good goals to come," he said. "Canada is so strong right now. I'll be in the stands cheering them on. I'll have to try to keep a bit of my voice for them."

For that song at the medals ceremony, too.

AP

Alexandre Bilodeau of Canada celebrates his win in moguls at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, British Columbia, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

German Loch wins Olympic luge gold

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP)—Felix Loch blazed across the finish line, dropped his feet to the track and pulled back on the front runners to brake his speedy sled, spraying ice in every direction. The gangly German punched the frosty air in triumph.

Finally, luge could celebrate.

Loch, gliding safely through the final curve where a fellow Olympian tragically died just two days earlier, easily won his first gold medal on Sunday and brought brief but needed comfort to a sport rocked by criticism that it put performance above protection of its athletes.

The 20-year-old Loch finished his four heats in 3 minutes, 13.085 seconds, well ahead of teammate David Moeller (3:13.764) and Italy's Armin Zoeggeler (3:14.375), the 2002 and 2006 Olympic champion who added a fifth medal to his collection.

Officials, under pressure after 21-year-old Georgian slider Nodar Kumaritashvili was killed in a practice crash Friday, shortened the track by moving the starts down the mountain. The alteration worked to slow the sleds, but the changes may have tilted the balance of competition.

American Tony Benshoof, who finished eighth, understood the reasoning behind moving the start and respected the decision, but that didn't mean he liked it.

"This was a big letdown," said Benshoof, who spent two years preparing for a steep start at Whistler. "This was my track. It is my track. I excel at high speeds and high risk. Unfortunately, they lowered the start and it's like running the downhill men's ski race down a bunny hill. It's a whole different deal.

"But I'm not making excuses," he added. "We all had the same situation."

Vonn's shin passes test of slalom training session

WHISTLER, British Columbia (AP)—Lindsey Vonn went through a rigorous slalom training session Sunday, passing the toughest test yet for her bruised right shin.

As a result, her husband said in a telephone interview, the two-time overall World Cup champion is no longer worrying about whether she will be able to compete at the Vancouver Olympics, but rather thinking about how best to prepare for pursuing medals.

"She definitely wants to get out there and get going," said Thomas Vonn, who serves as a coach and chief adviser to his wife. "Her focus has definitely changed from, 'Am I going to race?' to 'I'm definitely racing, and I need to get the rust off and try to get the speed back.'"

Lindsey Vonn had not done any full-fledged training on a hill since hurting herself Feb. 2, when she tumbled and slammed the top of her right boot against her leg during pre-Olympic practice in Austria.

She stayed off skis for more than a week—for a few days, it was tough even to walk—then has been forced to wait along with everyone else while wet and warm weather canceled one official training session after another at Whistler.

After Sunday's practice, Vonn told SI.com: "I feel like I'm getting into a more aggressive mind-set. That's what I need. I need to be in the start house and feel confident that I can trust my body and race aggressively. I'm starting to get that feeling back."

The first women's Alpine race at the Winter Games originally was supposed to be a super-combined Sunday, but that event was pushed back to Thursday because of the delays. Now the women aren't slated to race until Wednesday's downhill, Vonn's best event. She has won five of six World Cup downhills this season.

Organizers have scheduled an unusual, split women's downhill training run for Monday, bookending it around the men's downhill medal race. Women will ski the top part of their course in the morning, before the men race, then cover the bottom portion afterward - weather permitting, of course.

Thomas Vonn said all of the forced rest can be credited with helping his wife's shin feel "better and better every day," prompting Sunday's trip to the mountain. She set out first for a casual free ski and, when that went well, decided to do more spirited training. All told, they were on the slopes for about 2 1/2 hours.

"By the end, she could go full-on normal slalom, and slalom would be the toughest for her to do on that shin, because there's so much movement, and you're hitting the gates," he said.

Before her injury became known, Vonn was widely considered a contender for perhaps three or four medals—and an overwhelming favorite for golds in the downhill and super-G—and was pegged to become the breakout star of these Olympics, the focus of much of NBC's promotion.

But when she arrived in Vancouver on Wednesday, Vonn sounded glum as she wondered aloud whether her shin would even allow her to ski.

Sunday's official downhill practice was called off because of too much rain overnight. That followed washouts of practices slated for Friday and Saturday, while Thursday's training run was stopped because of thick fog after only two racers left the starting gate.

"She absolutely needed those days off. Without those delays, it would have been absolutely questionable whether she could (compete)," Thomas Vonn said. "Now we need to get her back up to speed. She hasn't been able to really ski slalom in over three weeks. That's a long time when you're going into the Olympic Games."

He said his wife is still taking painkillers to dull the aching in her leg.

"It's not like it's all gone. The injury hasn't disappeared," he said. "She still has pain when she's skiing."

World Resort/Advance, Shirley's top foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wowie Abuel outgunned Bonbon Cadagat, lifting World Resort/Advance X-Terminators to a 101-96 win over Pepsi during their game in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Abuel sizzled for 37 points, firing 15 in the fourth quarter to lead World/Advance to a come-from-behind win. Pepsi led by as much as 15 points in the third quarter behind Cadagat's 16-point explosion, but collapsed for the second straight time. Cadagat's team was also leading TBK Auto Care during the league's opening day, but Pepsi lost the driver's seat in the last four minutes of the fourth quarter.

Abuel started his hot game with pair of triples in the first quarter, giving World Resort a 28-16 lead. However, Abuel and company cooled off in the second canto, as no World Resort player scored more than one field goal in that period, allowing Pepsi to move within two at the break, 37-39.

Pepsi finally took the lead in the third period behind Cadagat's successive baskets and perfect clip from the foul line (5-for-5). Cadagat outshone Abuel in the third, as the latter made only 13 points.

However, it was Abuel's turn to run the show in the crucial payoff canto, as he drilled three triples against Cadagat's seven points. Cadagat ended up six markers short of Abuel's total output, as the former tallied 31 points.

The win was second for World Resort/Advance, putting them in a tie for the lead with TBK Auto Care, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and defending champion Micronesian Brokers, Inc.

In the second game, host Shirley's recovered from a loss in its debut against MBI with a 97-64 rout of Cellular Pro.

New recruits Errol Peredo and Junar Guiab gave Shirley's an easy win, firing 26 and 20 markers, respectively. Reigning regular season MVP Fradel Sedillo chipped in 16.

Shirley's led by only eight at the end of the first quarter, 22-14, behind Sedillo's 12 points, before Guiab and Peredo led the breakaway in the second quarter. The duo failed to score in the first period, but combined for 16 markers in the second canto, upping Shirley's lead to 15, 45-30, at halftime.

Cellular Pro never recovered from thereon and dropped to a 0-2 record, as it had only Eric Dulfo scoring in double figures for the team with his 23 markers.

First Game

World Resort/Advance 101 – Abuel 37, Vinas 19, Wabinga 14, Olaitiman 10, Ritual 6, Gayo 5, Pineda 4, Tabamo 4, Apasan 2.

Pepsi 96 – Cadagat 31, Garon 22, Lauron 22, Lansang 10, Cepeda 7, Maglaya 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-28, 37-39, 71-67, 101-96

Second Game

Shirley's 97 – Peredo 26, Guiab 20, Sedillo 16, Nicdao 13, Pablo 7, Laxa 6, Mojar 4, Pineda 3, Licop 2.

Cellular Pro 64 – Dulfo 23, Rotap 9, J. Loste 8, Manuel 8, Mongami 6, A. Loste 6, Hernandez 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-14, 45-30, 68-48, 97-64.

NEW

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of the similar event last year, 9-8 (7-4).

In the men's 40-and-above singles, the gold medal went to Eli Buenaventura, who thwarted Richard Brostrom in the finals, 9-7. Brostom also figured out in last year's finals of the same event , which Dong Min Lee won, 8-0.

In the women's open singles, Matty Buenaventura prevailed over Lee Liang, 8-2, while in the co-ed 10-and-under co-ed mini tennis, Alfie Madlambayan downed Lloyd Kim, 4-1.

Last weekend was the first time a mini tennis was added in the Coconut Classic calendar, but it was the third time that the Commonwealth had the unique event. Mini tennis as the name suggests is played at one half of the regular tennis court and is for beginners. It was first played in the CNMI during the Tan Holdings Classic in November last year. The second time was during the Saipan Tennis Challenge last month.

Another unique event in CNMI tennis, the mixed-up doubles, was played in extended sets with the pair of Loyola and Amami Sakano outlasting Colin Ramsey and Todd Montgomery in three sets, 6-4, 5-7, 10-8.

The mixed-up doubles had young or inexperienced players teaming up with older or advanced netters.

The Top 3 winners in each event were given medals in yesterday's awards ceremony at the AMP court.

SPORTSLIFER

From Page 28

Physical Education teacher at the Oleai Elementary School.

"I was a P.E. teacher and coached students in track meets and soccer, basketball, and volleyball tournaments," said Rangamar, the development officer for Northern Marianas Athletics and president of the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands.

"As for NMA, I was asked by then track coach Ed Temengiil if I was interested in coaching athletics. I took it as a challenge since I just started working for the Division of Sports and Recreation and part of my job description was to assist sports federations," he said.

A few years after joining NMA, Rangamar experienced his first off-island tournament.

"My first ever athletes were Tony Ichiou, Emmy Quitigua, and Frederick Frazier. I was with them during the Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu in 1993. It was my first taste of coaching at that level and it was a humbling experience. I was in awe of the athleticism and skills that those athletes possessed. That got me hooked for good," Rangamar said.

Witnessing history

After the trip to Vanuatu, Rangamar became a familiar face for CNMI in off-island meets. However, the most important and memorable among those tournaments was the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia Samoa.

Rangamar was with sprinter Tyrone Omar, who timed in at 10.99 seconds in the 100m race and advanced to the semifinals of the event.

"I always enjoyed my experiences with all my athletes whenever we go on these trips, but if I had to pick one, without a doubt, it was the experience of watching Tyrone Omar run in the South Pacific Games and break the CNMI record along the way. In the history of the CNMI in the Games, no Commonwealth runner had passed the preliminary heats before. To top it off, he ran under 11 seconds, which was also something that no CNMI athlete had ever accomplished before," Rangamar said.

Omar held the previous CNMI record in the 100m (11 seconds), which he established during the 11th IAAF World Championships at the Nagai Stadium in Osaka City, Osaka, Japan, also in 2007 with Rangamar on his side.

Making a difference

Rangamar said though medals and records are rewarding for a coach like him, it's the thought that he helps make a difference in one's life that keeps him coaching for nearly two decades.

"When these athletes are all grown up and are successful in their lives, knowing I played a part in their triumphs in sports and it their lives would be a great achievement," said Rangamar .

"At the end of the day, it's great to realize you were able to instill positive character to your athletes and share with them lessons in life, as you both faced the challenges of defeats and victories," added Rangamar, who considers having a coaching principle, enthusiasm, and love for working with people as the three most important traits of a coach.

He also has a piece of advice to aspiring coaches, "coaching is an art. Do not let talents go into waste or leave them to chance."

DUENAS

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Cruz's banged body did not survive Takai's punishment and referee Tony D'Angelo had to hand Takai the win on verbal submission even before the second round had began.

Other fighters who won in the supporting bouts were Josh Martin, Jerry Mundo, Frank Demapan, Mark Nuque, Craig Borja, Peter Cepeda, and Mike Taitano.

Martin and Mundo saw action in the first two fights and ended their respective bout shortly. Martin prevailed over Tinian's Johmar Untalan midway in the first round on a rear-naked choke. Mundo won his debut against Jason Teregeyo at the end of the first round, as the latter opted not to continue the fight after sustaining a big lump on his forehead.

Demapan's fight against Tinian's Sigfried Enriquez went the distance with the former winning by unanimous decision after three rounds. The three judges scored the bout, 30-27. It was the first three-round bout decided by scorecards in Rites of Passage in four years.

Trench Tech's Nuque, nicknamed "Ultimate Underdog" lived up to his name, stunning Kev Estevez. Eztevez was in control of the fight early, pinning down Nuque on the ground. However, Nuque managed to move out of the trap and went on to go on top of Estevez and employed a rear-naked choke at his foe. Estevez gave up in the 2:44 mark of the first round.

Borja scored a referee stoppage win over Guam's Frank Benavente in the 58-second mark of the second round. It was a come-from-behind victory for Borja, as Benavente had his numbers in the first round. In the second round, the Tinian fighter nicknamed "Earthquake" rocked Benavente with a flurry of punches to end the bout.

Peter Cepeda gave Tinian's Zengzung its third win of the night after prevailing over Saipan's Denri Fiden by verbal submission. Cepeda threw solid punches to Fiden with his last one, a big right, bringing the Saipan fighter down to his knees. Fiden was saved by the bell in the first round, but decided not to continue the bout, as he was still dizzy, recovering from Cepeda's beating.

Guam recorded its second victory of the night when Mike Taitano won in the first round by referee stoppage against Tinian's Carl Cepeda. Cepeda received too many punches from Taitano, prompting D'Angelo to step in and call in a night at the 2:23 mark of the first round.

In the two other called off bouts, Jay "Taby" Muna had to withdraw due to nausea, giving Brad Palacios a victory by default. Rick "Too Slick" San Nicolas had no excuse for his no-show against Sully "Heavy Leggs" Stone and this was not the first time that the former missed his bout after signing a contract for the fight.

The 11 supporting bouts were teasers to the triple-main event, which had Koreans winning two of the fights.

NATIBU

From Page 28

grab the lead, 17-15. A Mario Sablan one-run single and Tyrone Omar sacrifice fly tied the game and sent it to an extra inning.

At the top of the eighth, Ned Norita hit a one-run single, while Omar had a one-run double to force another deadlock, 18-all.

At the top of the second extra inning, Bruce Norita and B.J. Sablan had a one-run single each and Natibu scored one more run off a fielder's choice for a 21-18 lead. Finally, Chura had no answers to Natibu's hits at the bottom of the ninth inning, as the best that the former could do was have leadoff batter Stan Laniyo in second base. Chura's next three batters were beaten to first base.

Advance 14, Hitz 13

The first grand slam of the night came from the Advance-Hitz match with the former escaping with a 14-13 win.

Angel Reyes had his grand slam at the bottom of the fourth inning, turning a 4-9 deficit to a 14-9 lead, as Advance also drew a three-run homer from John Taitano in that inning. Advance hung on to the lead, as it allowed Hitz to score only in one of the last three innings.

Ur Balls 14, Blazers 10

Ur Balls failed to make a grand slam, but Giovanni Ayuyu and Oliver Secharmidal's three RBIs each were enough to lift the team to a 14-10 win over the Blazers.

The Blazers drew a grand slam from John Paul Flores at the bottom of the third inning to seize the lead, 6-7. However, that was the best that Blazers could do, as they scored only in one of the last four innings to hand the win to Ur Balls. Four unearned runs in the fourth and fifth inning put Ur Balls back in the lead and then Secharmidal hit a two-run double in the sixth to make it a 14-7 count before Blazers scored only three runs at the bottom of the last inning.

Freedom Air 17, Ramblers 2

Freedom Air had cruise control Friday night, whipping Ramblers, 17-2.

Dennis Cruz started the game with a solo homer and that was all Freedom Air needed to get its momentum going en route to an easy win. Reyes went 3-for-3 at bat and scored three runs and one double.

Ramblers made it to the scoreboard only at the bottom of the first inning on Ton Pangelinan's two-run homer.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

AT&T PEBBLE BEACH NATIONAL PRO-AM SCORES

PEBBLE BEACH, California (AP)–Scores Saturday from the $6.2 million Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (played on three courses golfers listed in par order):

FINAL ROUND

Dustin Johnson	64	68	64	74	270
David Duval	67	68	67	69	271
J.B. Holmes	65	67	68	71	271
Steve Marino	68	67	67	71	273
Josh Teater	70	67	68	69	274
J.P. Hayes	68	71	63	72	274
Paul Goydos	67	65	64	78	274
Tom Gillis	69	68	69	69	275
Phil Mickelson	68	67	69	71	275
Tim Clark	70	68	68	70	276
Blake Adams	65	74	66	71	276
D.J. Trahan	67	67	69	73	276
Alex Cejka	65	67	69	75	276
Matt Jones	67	67	66	76	276
Bryce Molder	67	65	68	76	276
Steve Elkington	68	67	71	71	277
Brian Gay	66	73	69	69	277
Luke Donald	70	65	71	71	277
Bob Estes	69	68	72	68	277
Padraig Harrington	69	67	69	72	277
Scott McCarron	70	66	71	71	278
Brandt Snedeker	72	68	66	72	278
Greg Owen	71	67	66	74	278
Jonathan Byrd	70	70	70	68	278
K.J. Choi	65	70	68	75	278
Tom Pernice Jr.	67	69	67	75	278
Nick Watney	71	66	70	72	279
Jeff Maggert	65	75	66	73	279
Charlie Wi	68	74	66	71	279
Rickie Fowler	67	71	71	70	279
John Senden	67	71	68	73	279
Rod Pampling	69	70	67	73	279
Alex Prugh	68	68	69	74	279
Matt Every	73	69	68	69	279
Charley Hoffman	64	75	68	73	280
Kevin Streelman	65	70	72	73	280
Greg Chalmers	76	66	65	73	280
Jeff Quinney	70	71	67	72	280
Jim Furyk	68	69	69	74	280
Vijay Singh	65	71	70	74	280
Sean O'Hair	70	70	69	71	280
Heath Slocum	71	67	71	71	280
Nick O'Hern	69	72	64	75	280
Pat Perez	68	71	71	70	280
Will MacKenzie	70	67	73	70	280
Spencer Levin	68	69	69	75	281
Cameron Percy	69	70	69	73	281
Webb Simpson	67	68	74	72	281
Jason Day	71	67	72	71	281
Michael Letzig	67	74	66	75	282
Robert Garrigus	72	70	66	74	282
Adam Scott	73	71	64	75	283
Vaughn Taylor	69	69	68	77	283
Sergio Garcia	68	71	67	77	283
Mike Weir	67	70	73	73	283
Garrett Willis	68	68	71	77	284
Chris Wilson	72	67	70	75	284
Kris Blanks	72	72	66	74	284
Kevin Na	71	65	74	74	284
Chez Reavie	75	65	70	74	284
Brett Quigley	69	69	71	76	285
Jason Gore	69	66	74	76	285
Jay Williamson	70	70	69	76	285
Hunter Mahan	70	73	66	77	286
Martin Flores	69	70	71	76	286
Ted Purdy	70	69	71	76	286
Kevin Johnson	70	70	70	76	286
Roger Tambellini	73	69	68	80	290
John Mallinger	67	72	71	81	291

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	9	0
Island Rebels	8	0
Man Amigos	10	1
SaiPal	8	2
Chura	7	2
Ur Balls	7	2
Freedom Air Flyers	7	3
San Roque	6	2
Hitz	5	4
6-Pack	5	4
Blazers	4	5
Go For Broke	3	6
Red Eye	3	7
Calikano-Falcons	3	7
Lancheros	3	6
X-Terminators	2	7
G-Ballers	2	8
Ramblers	2	9
Berdax	1	6
Team Familia	1	7
Team Fuegu	1	9

SHIRLEY'S CAGING STANDINGS

MBI	2	0
Fiesta Resort	2	0
TBK	2	0
Advance	2	0
Aqua Resort	1	0
Shirley's	1	1
Mobil	0	1
Hard Rock	0	1
McGraw-Hill	0	1
AON/NJ Plus	0	1
Bank of Guam	0	1
Pepsi	0	2
Cell Pro	0	2
Pacific Islands Club	0	0
Docomo/SGH	0	0

2010 Saipan Little League Baseball Opening

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

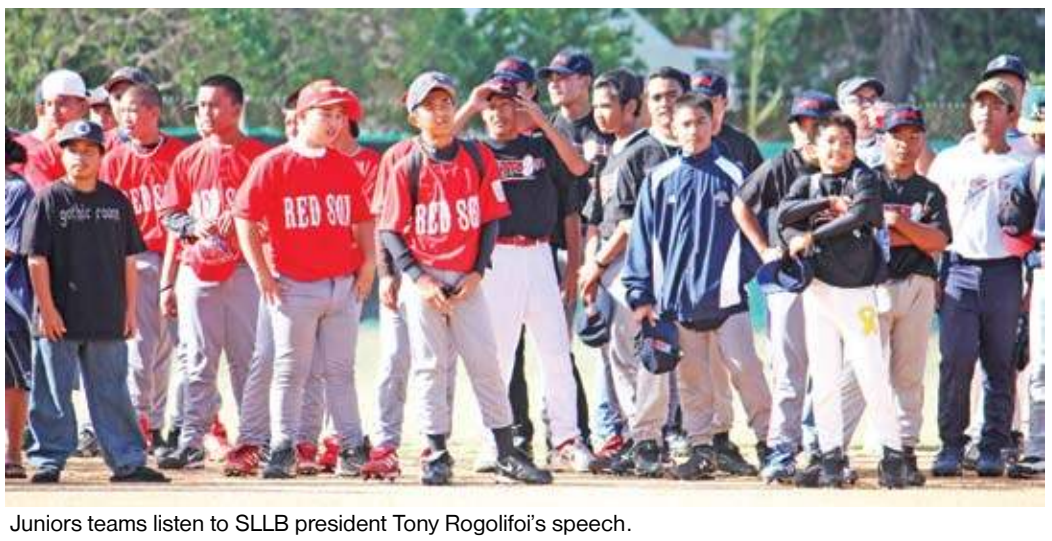
Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos throws the ceremonial pitch during the opening of the 2010 season of the Saipan Little League Baseball on Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Participating teams sing the CNMI anthem during the opening ceremony of the Saipan Little League Baseball.

Defending champion Ol'Aces walks out of the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bank of Saipan Red Sox exit the field at the closing ceremony of the Saipan Little League Baseball.

Members of IT&E team join the parade of squads.



Juniors teams listen to SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi's speech.

Teams in the Majors division sing the U.S. National Anthem.

Members of the Saipan Southern High School JROTC salute as the U.S. National Anthem is being played.

CNMI District Administrator James Ada, right, delivers the brief remarks during the opening ceremony.

The men in blue—the umpires—observe a moment of silence in memory of the late SLLB statistician Roque Celis.

World Resort/ Advance, Shirley's top foes

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Record crowd sees East edge West in All-Star game

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New winners in Coconut Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

There were no repeat winners for the 2010 Wise Woman Village Coconut Classic Tennis, as nine singles players and one pair emerged as new champions in the weekend tournament played at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the boys' 10-and-under division, Colin Ramsey took the crown that eluded him last year after edging Moris Villanueva in yesterday's finals, 8-5. Colin lost to Carl Dela Cruz in the 2008 edition of the Coconut Classic.

The girls' 10-and-under title went to Tammy Ackerman, who edged Carol Lee in the championship match, 8-3. Emily Jones topped Sakura Imaya last year's 10-and-under finals, 6-1.

The boys' 14-and-under division also had a new champion in Jake Lee, who shut out Tommy Choi in yesterday's finals, 8-0. Lee finished only third last year behind Rafael Jones and Christian Miller.

In the girls' 14-and-under division, the new champion was Mikayla Lopez, who defeated Negahr Rastguiy, 8-1, in yesterday's finals. Amy Arenovski was last year's winner in the girls' 14-and-under division, prevailing over Ilia Corella, 8-5. Both Arenovski and Corella moved up to the girls' 18-and-under age group this season.

Rafael Jones and Christian Miller also climbed up to the boys' 18-and-under with the latter winning via default. Rafael Jones could not make it to yesterday's finals due to a back injury. On Sunday, Rafael Jones played in the semis and beat Andy Nutting, 8-5, while Miller topped Daniel Park in the other semis match, 8-2. Last year's champion in the boys' 18-and-under was Benjie Decena, who missed the weekend tournament.

In the girls' 18-and-under division, Jodel Fernandez swept all her four matches in the round-robin singles, dethroning 2009 champion Lila Mailman, who failed in her bid for back-to-back titles after forfeiting two games due to pink eye.

In the men's open singles, CNMI coach Jeff Race outclassed Peter Loyola, 9-8. Race lost to Kirk Schuler in the finals

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Colin Ramsey serves during his and teammate Todd Montgomery's finals game against Peter Loyola and Amami Sakano in the mixed-up doubles division of the 2010 Coconut Classic tennis tournament yesterday at the AMP courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ELIAS RANGAMAR

Sportslifer relishes coaching

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last of a five-part series

(Editor's Note: Tonight, NMASA will be holdings its 2009 Sports Banquet. To mark the occasion, Saipan Tribune will be publishing a series of articles that will pay tribute to the winners of the annual awards night.)

Tonight, Elias Rangamar will reap one of the fruits of his more than 17-year coaching career, as he goes up the stage of the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel to receive the 2009 NMASA Coach of the Year Award.

Rangamar was selected for the coveted award for the second straight year for helping the CNMI grab the overall championship in the 2009 Micronesian Athletics Championship in Australia.

With Rangamar's guidance, the Commonwealth claimed 14 gold medals, seven silver, and eight bronze and dethroned perennial rival Guam in the regional meet last year.

Humble beginning

Rangamar, who is also active in coaching in basketball, said his romance with coaching started in the 1980s when he was still a

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Elias Rangamar shows his 2008 NMASA Coach of the Year Award.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ben Duenas, left, and George Manglona exchange punches during their 160-lb. bout in the Rites of Passage 8: Fearless held Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Duenas wins debut in Fearless

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Only nine of the originally 11 preliminary bouts set for Rites of Passage 8: Fearless pushed through, but combatants who set foot on the octagon cage made up for the two cancelled fights at the Royal Taga Hall.

On top of the list were Saipan's Ben Duenas and Tinian's George Manglona, who had a give-and-take bout for three rounds. They exchanged punches and kicks and even brought the fight to the ground before Manglona ran out of steam with less than a minute left in the third, handing Duenas a victory via referee stoppage.

Then there was C.J. "Face" Takai of Guam and Josh Cruz's bout, which turned out to be a "slam" affair with the former lifting his 144-lb foe and slamming him hard to the canvas twice in the first round.

See DUENAS on Page 26

Natibu outlasts Chura in extra innings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Natibu needed two extra innings to thwart Chura, 21-18, during their game in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slowpitch Softball League on Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Norita

Catcher Bruce Norita hit a grand slam in the seventh inning to put Natibu back in the game and then made a one-run single in the ninth inning to help the team keep its perfect record after nine matches.

Natibu was behind, 13-15, after six complete innings when Norita drilled a grand slam at the top of the seventh inning to

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